www.saipantribune.com 50¢ FRIDAY JUNE 3, 2011 Volume XXI, Issue No. 130

OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you agree with Interior's statement that power poles will have no adverse impact on Marpi?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.



Anchor Promo

She promised her husband she would win him a boat. And she didby buying Anchor milk.

LOCAL...Page 9



Street Battles

Street battles between Yemeni government forces and armed tribes-

WORLD...Page 23



Apology, Please! Lance Armstrong is demanding an on-air apology from "60 Minutes."

LIFE & STYLE...Page 25

FATHER OF MISSING SISTERS BREAKS SILENCE

'I wish I'm the suspect'



Family members and relatives of missing sisters Faloma and Maleina Luhk arrange a table covered with white sheets that have become a shrine of hope for the family at their residence in As Teo.

CNMI on alert for tainted Taiwanese drinks

By MONETH G. DEPOSA

moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The Bureau of Environmental Health has joined the worldwide recall of some Taiwanese beverages after it received yesterday an emergency alert on 78 products that are believed to contain a chemical

So far, though, none of the recalled products has been found in Commonwealth shelves.

Based on the emergency notice the International Food Safety Authorities Network sent to BEH, a number of sports drinks and soft drink products from Taiwan have been found to be that is harmful to reproductive organs. contaminated with the chemical 2-ethy

hexyl, which is used in the manufacture of plastic products.

Products potentially containing high levels of this chemical had been distributed to Vietnam, the Philippines, and several regions of China.

Food and Drug Administration spokeswoman Joyce Cirunay said Wednesday

See ALERT on Page 4

At least 10 lawmakers, LB staffers off to Palau

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

At least 10 lawmakers and Legislative Bureau staff will be off to Palau to attend the June 15 to 17 Association of Pacific Island Legislatures' 30th General Assembly on communications and health.

Of the 10, at least six are lawmakers

and four are bureau staff. There may be other lawmakers joining the group by next week.

House Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) and Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan) are leading the group.

Besides Reves, there's only at least one other senator who is going, Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), who said she will make her final decision by Monday.

Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) initially registered for the APIL assembly but said yesterday he is backing out.

"Sen. Reyes and Sen. Taimanao are going, and the Senate is already well represented," Torres told Saipan Tribune.

See LAWMAKERS on Page 4

BY FERDIE DE LA TORRE

uhtik Luhk, the father of missing sisters Faloma and Maleina, finally broke his silence yesterday, telling Saipan Tribune he wishes he is the suspect in his daughters' disappearance because that would mean he had been reunited with his daughters.

In a 20-minute phone interview from Pohnpei last night, the 40-year-old Luhk said that he learned about his daughters' disappearance when the Federated States of Micronesia police came to his house on May 26 and informed him about what

See I WISH on Page 4

Kilili and Fitial at odds over SS tax exemption of some foreign workers



Fitial



Sablan

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan does not support Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's request to help eliminate U.S. Social Security taxes for all foreign workers and their employers in the CNMI. The Fitial administration said that exempting all foreign workers from this taxation would rid "discriminatory policies."

See KILILI on Page 4

CUC to cut unregistered private streetlights. PAGE 2 51-percent plunge in May vehicle sales. PAGE 6

Local



CUC to cut unregistered private streetlights

By MONETH G. DEPOSA moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will get rid of all unregistered private streetlights beginning next week to minimize, if not eliminate, all unaccounted power consumption.

This project, according to executive director Abe Utu Malae, is part of the agency's efforts to cut down on non-line technical losses—or losses due to metering, meter reading, theft, customer information system, billing, and other back-office issues.

In a statement yesterday,

NATIONAL OFFICE SUPPLY

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CUC said the removal of all unregistered private streetlights from the electrical grid will begin on June 9. Line crews will also be performing adjustments on all streetlights to ensure that they are installed on every other power pole.

There are two types of streetlights: government and private streetlights. Government streetlights are those that are intended to illuminate official government highways and roads and are registered and charged to the Department of Public Works. Private streetlights, meanwhile, are all other lights that do not meet this requirement.

CUC is asking all customers to register any existing private streetlights before June 9. Otherwise, CUC will have to remove the lights from the system. Any customer-owned streetlight that is removed will be left at the base of the power pole, according to CUC.

Once a private streetlight is registered, the customer will be charged for its power consumption through the standard monthly billing process.

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Based on a study by private consultant Kema Consulting that CUC commissioned last year, non-technical losses account for 6 to 7 percent of CUC's unaccounted energy losses. This percentage is considered "high" because industry standards for non-technical losses rarely exceed 1 percent.

This finding prompted CUC to create an ad-hoc task force that will identify all back-off activities, including meter reading policies and procedures, customer information system integrity, billing procedures, and revenue recovery and protection procedures all with the aim of reducing non-technical losses to no greater than 1 percent.

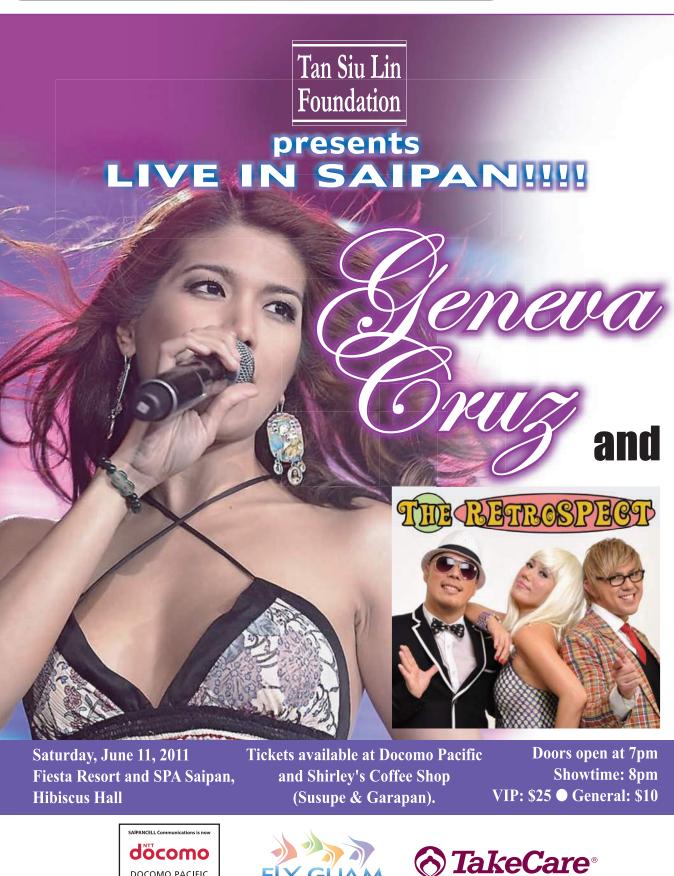
According to CUC's earlier testimony with the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, reducing the non-technical loss component of CUC's unaccounted energy losses would result in annual ratepayer savings of about \$4 million to \$6 million a year.

Saipan Tribune learned that CUC's total unaccounted for energy losses exceed 12 percent of all energy it produces.

For any questions about the removal schedule or the charges for a light, customers may contact Lee Lieto or Susan Mailuyal with the CUC Power Division, support services section at 235-7032.







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Garrison brands as 'false' all accusations raised against him

By MONETH G. DEPOSA moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com REPORTER

On the eve of a scheduled public hearing, Marianas High School principal Craig Garrison yesterday labeled as "false" all accusations raised against him and his management by disgruntled teacher James Yangetmai.

Garrison, in a letter yesterday to House Education Committee chair Rep. Raymond Palacios, said he is at odds as to why the panel would pick such a topic to convene a public hearing, based solely on a letter "with unfounded claims."

He said Yangetmai's statement that Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan had elected not be involved in the MHS issue is "false." He said Sablan as well as himself repeatedly explained the grievance procedures to Yangetmai, who chose to ignore the procedure, which is a violation of Board of Education policy.

He said the accusation that he removed more than 20 highly qualified teachers "for no apparent reason" was also false. The fact, he said, is there are a total of only 12 teachers who are currently set for reassignment at the end of the vear. He added that eight out of the 12 are "Caucasian white" and this was long discussed as part

of restructuring since MHS has more teachers than the studentteacher ratio permits.

Garrison also labeled as "blatantly false" Yangetmai's claim that in the seven months since he took charge of MHS, he has removed 35 teachers and staff. He said a total of only 11 are no longer working with MHS, mostly due to their own decisions: two aides transfered to Kagman High School because they're living in the area; two aides quit after admitting theft of school property; two instructors quit to go into the military; one teacher quit rather than be reassigned; one teacher quit stating he couldn't work a full day; and one teacher aide and teachers were reassigned due to overstaffing.

Garrison disclosed that another seven teachers will leave MHS on their own volition at the end of this year, including three teachers who are retiring; two teachers who got married and will relocate to teach internationally; and two teachers who will be moving back to their home states.

"It is clear from the data above that Mr. Yangetmai is either grossly fabricating his stories to get your attention or that he clearly lacks any understanding of the school's process and procedures. Added, the fact is

that as I have already informed all teachers that we never know what the real picture will look like for next year so things may change and some additional teachers may be asked to stay on," said Garrison.

Another claim that Garrison

branded as false is the allegation that morale is at rock bottom at MHS. He also denied threatening employees, embarrassing teachers in meetings, picking on Carolinian teachers, and inconsistently applying school policies.

He said nearly every school

has teachers teaching more assigned are Caucasian, to belie than one subject and it was only MHS that had so many extra teachers, with some only teaching one period or two periods and leaving for the rest of the dav. He also revealed that majority of teachers who were re-

claims of racism.

Garrison said he also did not issue walking papers or 90-day notices to anybody in the school. Rather, what he handed out were reassignment papers, he said.







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Speaker: New \$15M housing project in Chalan Galaide hinges on zoning law change

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) said portions of the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008, mainly the "setback requirement," need to be amended to pave the way for a \$15-million housing investment in Chalan Galaide.

In an interview, Cabrera said the 25-unit housing investment, which is similar to the Tottotville Housing, will create construction and other related jobs, infuse general fund revenue via direct taxes, and spur other economic activities.

"This is an investment that we cannot

turn down, and will benefit our general coffer. I heard that even before the housing units are built, they're already sold out," the speaker told Saipan Tribune.

A representative from the investor will be at another House session this afternoon to answer questions lawmakers may have.

The foreign investor leased a 4.5-hectare private property in Chalan Galaide for the project, Cabrera said.

He said each housing unit will have its own swimming pool and pavilion.

Cabrera's House Local Bill 17-50, which he introduced during a brief House session yesterday, would change the existing "setback" requirement of 30 feet from the property line at all sides under the Saipan Zoning Law, to only "10 feet."

The speaker pointed out that the proposed 10 feet setback will also be made consistent with the Coastal Resources Management regulations.

"We have two conflicting statutes,"

The original plan was to build a 30-unit housing project but this was pared down to only 25 units because of the "setback" requirement under the Saipan Zoning Law and the CRM regulations.

Cabrera's local bill needs three appearances in House sessions before it

The list of contaminated products

Taiwanese authorities have said sev-

eral companies illegally added DEHP,

which is used in the manufacture of

plastics, to beverages and health sup-

plements and have ordered the prod-

Just recently, some imported chil-

dren's toys from China were recalled

globally due to lead poisoning hazards

and/or violations of lead safety stan-

Tagabuel said the recall on toys with

lead content is being handled by the

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

and the local Division of Environmen-

tal Quality. No toy recall has been re-

ferred to the bureau's attention for fur-

ther assistance by these lead agencies.

ucts pulled from store shelves there.

may be found at emergencyinfosan@

he added.

who.int.

velopment consistent with community

community.

tion for action.

House minority leader Diego Bena-

he initiated.

The former lieutenant governor and speaker said APIL is a good venue to bring up the need for the region to ban shark finning to protect sharks and the marine ecosystem.

He said when he was still an immi-

values on Saipan.

The bill also seeks to give the zoning administrator "more flexibility in granting zoning permits."

The speaker's local bill also seeks to amend the official Saipan zoning map of 2008, specifically some portions of map sheet 10 and 13 of 29, map sheet 20 of 29, map sheet 19 of 29, and map sheet 15 of 29.

The bill also amends the required dimensions, size of the lot or front yard, side yard or rear yard setback, along with a change in fence height, and a decrease in the number of parking spaces, among other things.

LAWMAKERS

From Page 1

vente (R-Saipan), who became a member of the APIL board of directors in 1990, confirmed yesterday that he will be attending the Palau assembly, along with Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan) and Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan).

could be transmitted to the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delega-

A House session will be held this af-

His HLB 17-50 said the delegation

agrees that rezoning the areas which

were previously a subject of public

hearings are in the best interest of the

It also says that the delegation finds

that the zoning law allows the admin-

istrator insufficient flexibility to permit

projects in accordance with good plan-

ning principles, while encouraging de-

ternoon, and on Monday morning.

Benavente said he was asked to speak at a dinner reception about the CNMI's new shark fin ban law, which

Sablan separately confirmed that he's attending the APIL general assembly, which he said is an opportunity to "network" with lawmakers in the region and communicate on common issues.

gration director, he also made it a point

Currently, only foreign workers

from the Philippines and Korea are ex-

empted from Social Security taxation,

which Fitial said is unfair to other for-

"With all due respect, I am more

concerned that the current exemption

is unfair to our own local U.S. citizen

workers," Sablan said in a May 25 let-

Sablan was responding to Fitial's

April 4 letter sent by regular mail,

which Sablan said took some time to

At present, employers must pay 7.65

percent in Social Security tax for each

local U.S. citizen worker, which they

don't have to pay for Philippine or Ko-

"I cannot agree with your proposal

that we make it cheaper to hire foreign workers. We should rather be focused

on policies that train and educate local

workers to fill the jobs we have in the

Northern Mariana Islands, reducing unemployment among our own people

and moving toward greater balance

between private and public sector em-

ployment in our economy," Sablan told

Press secretary Angel Demapan,

when asked for comment, said last

night that the governor made the re-

quest to Sablan "in an effort to es-

tablish a sense of equality in terms of

KILILI

From Page 1

eign workers.

ter to Fitial.

get through security.

rean citizen workers.

the governor.

to attend conferences that would allow him to network with other immigration directors in the region.

Legislative Bureau director Glenna SP. Reyes confirmed that she will also be going, along with House legal counsel Joe Taijeron, and two legislative assistants—one from the House and one from the Senate.

"I'm only sending required support staff," she said.

There's a special APIL assembly roundtrip airfare of \$360. The normal price could be about \$680.

Other lawmakers said a 10-member delegation may be too large a number, considering that the CNMI government is trying to make ends meet.

This year's APIL general assembly has a theme, "The Blue Continent: Communications Infrastructure and the Health of our Pacific People."

The other APIL member entities are American Samoa, Guam, the Federates States of Micronesia's Pohnpei, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, and Hawaii.

From Page 1

that sports drinks, juices, soft drinks, teas, jams and jellies that are on a list of Taiwanese products possibly tainted with DEHP should be removed from

ed that a much broader range of beverage products and lactobacillus extracts had been potentially contaminated with 2-ethyl hexyl and sent to 10 additional countries, including the United States.

"We are sharing this information broadly as there could be a risk of secondary distribution. For some of the affected products the shelf life is very long, as much as two years," the Infosan alert sent to BEH stated yesterday.

hexyl is used as a plasticizer and is known to have several possible health effects, including impacts on the development of the reproductive system and cancer. The emergency alert states that human exposure to DEHP in food must be reduced to the lowest level possible.

John Tagabuel, deputy secretary for public health administration, confirmed with the Saipan Tribune yesterday that the CNMI is joining the global recall but added that no items have been discovered in the market since yesterday.

"As of 11:30 this morning, inspectors have not found any recalled product at wholesale and retail outlets," said Tagabuel.

He assured though that bureau inspectors continue to call and visit wholesalers and retailers. "BEH inspectors are also verifying manufacturer and production batch numbers,"

the possible use of trained dogs for the

out again specialized teams of CNMIfederal law enforcement personnel for "high level" searches. "This is in addition to the search operation being conducted by the CNMI law enforcement

Mafnas said they have many experienced officers at both levels-the CNMI and federal side—overseeing these searches and investigations.

in terms of expertise, special devices and technology. I want the community to be assured that we are well organized and we hope to come up with something significant. We are all baffled but we are not confused," he said.

The CNMI government has already created an expense account for the search, according to Jerome Ierome, Criminal Justice Planning Agency ex-

the Governor's Office to try and assist in every urgency or emergency need-

women of the department and law enforcement to make sure that equipments, gear, and other things that are needed for their work in the field is made available to them as soon as possible.

place as of yesterday [Wednesday],"

Meanwhile, sources disclosed that

exempted from paying Social Security taxes." "However, this should not be misconstrued as working against the development of a viable resident workforce.

The Fitial administration has long been committed to protecting and promoting the employment of U.S. citizens," he told Saipan Tribune.

Existing statutes such as the local preference provision and U.S Public Law 110-229, which placed CNMI immigration under federal control, provide instruments that support the placement of U.S. citizens in available jobs.

"So contrary to the congressman's belief, this is not about making it cheaper to hire foreign workers. If that was the case, then the congressman would have acted to remove the exemption that Filipino and Korean workers have over other foreign laborers. This is about ridding discriminatory policies and professing the American principles of fair and equal opportunities," Demapan added.

In related news, House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) said yesterday that the House has invited Sablan to next week's session to hear directly from the delegate on issues affecting the CNMI, including the nonresident workers' immigration status.

"Nov. 28, 2011, is just around the corner and we still haven't seen the regulations. People are worried," he said. On that date, the CNMI government-issued umbrella permits will expire and many foreign workers on the islands will be out of status and vulnerable to deportation.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the largest business organization in the CNMI, had said the delay in the issuance of the regulations is "getting ridiculous."

CNMI immigration came under federal control on Nov. 28, 2009, as a result of a U.S. law signed in May 2008 but regulations to govern some 20,000 foreign workers have yet to be issued.

ALERT

stores and supermarkets nationwide.

The Infosan alert on May 31 indicat-

Known as DEHP in Taiwan, 2-ethyl

I WISH From Page 1

had happened to his children.

When told that the media have been asking authorities if he is considered one of the suspects, Luhk replied: "I wish I am. I don't care.

"And I don't mind if somebody is holding them as long as they are alive and they are fine, I'm okay.'

Luhk also denied a DPS statement that he has not been communicating with them. "I call them everyday," he said.

He refused to talk "for now" about custody and other issues involving his ex-wife, Jermain Quitugua.

Luhk, a former police and corrections officer on Saipan, said that he moved to Pohnpei in 2006 and has never returned to Saipan.

"As a father of the two missing kids, I would like to thank whoever is taking care of my kids," he told Saipan Tribune. He urged whoever is holding his daughters to give him a call. The Saipan Tribune is withholding that number for now.

Jermain Quitugua's father, Elbert Quitugua, and his wife Jane, have been taking care of Faloma and Maleina for almost three years now, since Jermain moved to Guam.

Jermain returned to Saipan on May 26 after learning about the disappearance of her daughters. She joined volunteers yesterday in the search for her children.

Today marks the ninth day since 10-year-old Faloma and 9-year-old Maleina were reported missing. The two were reportedly last seen sitting on a drainage cement slab near a bus stop pavilion in As Teo.

No signs yet

The CNMI's law enforcers supported

by civilian volunteers failed again yesterday to locate the missing sisters in the ongoing search and investigation that's been dubbed "Operation Hope."

The islandwide search that began on May 26 has reportedly resulted in over 9,000 work hours for CNMI law

In a news briefing yesterday at the Kagman Community Center, acting Department of Public Safety commissioner Ramon Mafnas said they are logging in thousands of hours for the search, not counting logistics and other forms of support vehicles, fuel, and other things.

"Of course, that's part of our responsibility. We have planning and operations. We have logistics and administrations. So these things must be managed properly," Mafnas said. "The effort is well organized from logistics and administration to planning and operations.'

When asked to tote up the cost the government is incurring for these work hours, Mafnas said they don't have a figure now, but that they are monitoring and "manning the books."

He said their operation is in close collaboration with the FBI.

"We started this since the beginning and we will finish this together," he

Among the things they are looking for are the girls' backpacks and their school journals, he said. "I personally handed several items over to the FBI; some were handed over to me by the investigators. We gathered some items owned by the children at the house," said Mafnas. He refused to elaborate.

He said searches have been conducted in different areas every day, not focusing on just one specific area, "because there are strategic and tactical reasons for doing those things."

He declined to discuss "at this time"

Yesterday morning, he said, they sent

"DPS is getting tremendous support

Expense account

ecutive director.

"This is an expense account under ed," Ierome said.

He said this is to support the men and

"The expense account is already in Ierome added.

investigators are looking for a former employing nonresident workers, given law enforcer who has been spotted that Filipino and Korean employees are "sometimes" in the As Teo area. Sources said the former law enforcer is being sought only for questioning. It was not clear if he has already been found as of press time.

Cheyenne crew, officers clean up AMP

By CLARISSA V. DAVID

Some 25 officers and enlisted members of USS Cheyenne, the last of the Los Angeles class submarines to be built, took part in a community project during their R&R visit to Saipan.

The volunteers removed invasive plant species where the American Memorial Park plans to establish a natural filtration system using mangroves.

Commander Gary Rogeness, who led the submarine volunteers, narrated how they got in touch with veteran Cal Colavechio and CNMI Military and Veterans Affairs executive officer Ruth Coleman on what kind of project they can do to give back to the island community.

"We enjoy the rest and relaxation but it's always a great opportunity to build relationships and do something for the community," he said.

Rogeness said they also coordinated with Park Ranger Nancy Kelchner for the project.

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"It will benefit the environment and I consider the Navy to be a pretty good steward of resources and the environment so it's just a perfect project for my guys to help out with," he told Saipan Tribune.

USS Cheyenne, composed of about 140 officers and enlisted members, were welcomed by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce in a reception at the Hard Rock Café in Garapan on Wednesday night.

Rogeness was joined by Lt. Cmdr. Tom Buecker and Master Chief Hank LaPoint in presenting memorabilia to the welcoming team that included Coleman, Colavechio, Chamber president Douglas Brennan, executive director Richard Pierce, Superior Court Judge David Wiseman, Ports Authority chair Mary Ann Lizama, veterans Mariano Fajardo and Barry Hirshbein, Mayor Donald Flores, and the Salvation Army.

The welcoming committee also presented souvenir items to the three officers.

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Rogeness, in an interview that evening, said this is the third visit of USS Cheyenne, which was commissioned on Sept.

Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

"Mainly, our mission right now is to do a regularly sched-

13, 1996, and is homeported in uled six-month deployment, to do a lot of training for the crew," he said, adding that this deployment was the first for most of

his "very young" crew members who will gain experience in submarine operations and qualifications training.



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51-percent plunge in May vehicle sales

a whopping 51 percent in May, which the Commonwealth Auto Dealers Association attributed to a host of factors: the impact of Japan's disasters on automotive production, the lingering uncertainty caused by a lack of federal regulations governing foreign workers in the CNMI, and the general state of the economy.

"It's like a perfect storm [of problems]," said CADA's Douglas Brennan, who is also general manager of Microl Corp.

Latest CADA data shows that its three members sold only 23 new cars, trucks, and sports utility vehicles in May, a 51-percent drop from 47 sold during the was sold last month.

This brings to 198 the yearto-date sales, also a 28-percent decrease from the same months last year.

Brennan said the CNMI automotive industry "is just starting to feel the impact of the Japan disasters" plus other factors like federal immigration. Many of the CNMI-bound vehicles and supplies come from Japan.

CADA also sold 24 used or secondhand vehicles in May, bringing the total to 112 so far this year.

Microl Corp., the authorized dealer of Toyota and Chevrolet, sold 10 vehicles in May, a 47-percent dive from the same

same month last year. No van month last year. Microl's yearto-date sales reached 82, a 37percent drop from a year ago.

Triple "J" Motors also sold 10 new units in May, a 23-percent drop from the same month last year. Between January and May, it sold 50 units, a 7-percent drop from the same months in 2010. Triple "J" Motors is the local dealer of Hyundai, Mitsubishi, Isuzu, Suzuki, and Mazda.

Joeten Motors sold only three new units in May, a steep 80percent drop from 15 sold in May last year. Its year-to-date sales reached 66, a 27-percent decline from a year ago. It is the authorized distributor of Nissan, Ford, Honda and Kia. (Haidee V. Eugenio)

payment sites for dog registration

Three sites will be accepting payment fees from pet owners who want to have their dogs registered with the Dog Control Program of the Saipan Mayor's Office.

Program director Ray B. Lizama said these locations are the CNMI Treasury Office on Capital Hill, which is open Monday to Friday, from 7:30am to 4pm, except during austerity Fridays; Division of Revenue & Taxation at the Joeten Dandan Bldg., Monday to Friday, from 7:30am to 4:30pm; and the Commonwealth Superior Court in Susupe, Monday to Friday, from 7:30am to 4:30pm.

Lizama said the Mayor's Office will not be accepting the payments for accountability purposes.

"In a way, it's good for us so we don't have to worry about handling cash," he told Saipan Tribune.

The long-delayed Dog Control Program will be implemented beginning Monday, with trained staff tagging owned pets at the Carolinian Utt Pavilion in Garapan from June 6 to 16, from 9am to 4pm.

Lizama noted that service dogs for people with Navy Hill. (Clarissa V. David)

FEE SCHEDULE Annual License Altered Unaltered **Senior Citizens** Dog Owners Fees 1 Year License 2 Year License 3 Year License \$18 4 Year License \$34 5 Year License \$42 \$24

disabilities will not pay any fees while owners of altered dogs need to present a spay/neuter certificate from a licensed veterinarian.

He said all dog owners are required a local ID, receipt of payment, and provide information regarding name, age, sex color, and breed of dog.

According to Lizama, they have published announcements about the program through newspapers, radio and television, and even put up signages in Kagman, San Jose, Garapan, and Lower





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IN LIGHT OF LUHK SISTERS' DISAPPEARANCE

'Get involved in Neighborhood Watch groups'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID clarissa david@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Community members are urged to be more involved in the Neighborhood Watch Task Force in light of what happened to sisters Faloma and Maleina Luhk who have been missing since last week.

"The incident is a big alarm for the entire community. We have to start becoming more involved with the Neighborhood Watch in their respective village," said Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council chair Ramon B. Camacho yesterday.

Camacho said he is among

the hundreds that volunteered ready inquired about how they to search for Faloma, 10, and Maleina, 9.

The two were reportedly last seen sitting across the bus stop on a drainage cement slab near their As Teo residence around 6:10am last May 25. Police learned that the girls missed their 6:30am bus.

Camacho said task force members, particularly from the Dandan Village Neighborhood Watch led by Frank Camacho, have joined other volunteers in the islandwide search for the missing girls.

According to Camacho, several of the volunteers have al- with their neighbors. Let's

can be part of the Neighborhood Watch Task Force. With their taking part in the search, he said these volunteers have instantly become members in their own way.

Camacho, a retired police officer, said this is the first time that an incident like this has happened on Saipan.

He encouraged the community to "care and watch out for each other," which is the main purpose of the Neighborhood Watch Task Force.

"I am urging the public to move aside their differences build a relationship where we care and protect each other for the deterrence of crime," said Camacho.

Camacho also said that this "very unacceptable" incident has helped people become more aware of the task force and more vigilant in their surroundings.

Camacho, who remains hopeful and positive that the missing girls will be found soon, urged the community to join any of the five Village Neighborhood Watch groups or form one for their respective village.

"Let's all join so we can have a safe and healthy living environment," he added.

Iasayos, Waing receive national honors

Two Commonwealth students were recently accepted to the prestigious National Society of High School Scholars, a distinction given to students who demonstrate and achieve academic excellence.

Nizelynn T. Masayos and Marylyn S. Waing, both 17, were notified of their acceptance to the prestigious group by its founder and chairman, Claes Nobel, a senior member of the family that established the Nobel Prizes.

Masayos is a student at Kagman High School. She is the daughter Nizer and Rosalinda Masayos.

According to Nobel, Masayos was recognized for her hard work, sacrifice, and commitment toward attaining a high level of academic excellence.

"Nizelynn is now a member of a unique community of scholars—a community that



Masayos

represents our very best hope for the future," said Nobel in his letter.

Masayos, a junior, is a consistent participant in several academic activities and competitions on island including the Mathcourt, spelling bee, mock trial, Attorney Generals' Cup, and others. She is also her class' president and presently a candidate in this year's Liberation



Waing

Queen pageant.

Joining Masayos in the society is 17-year-old Marylynn S. Waing, a student of Marianas High School is under the care of guardians Edward and Frances Sablan.

Just recently, Waing was promoted to the rank of cadet lieutenant colonel and is now the MHS Battalion commander. She was also given the U.S. Army Recruiting Command Award for JROTC for showing excellent participation in both scholastic and military activities.

Membership in the society entitles qualified students to enjoy variety of benefits including scholarship opportunities, academic competitions, free events, member-only resources, publications, programs offered by educational partners, and others.

The society's president, James Lewis, said it is the vision of the organization to build a dynamic international group that connects members with meaningful content, resources, and opportunities. It also aims to help students build on their academic successes and enhance the skills and desires to have a positive impact on the global community.

The society was formed in 2002 and has more than 530,000 members in over 160 countries. (Moneth Deposa)

Green Meadow School promotes kindergarten students

Green Meadow School promoted to the next grade level 27 kindergarten students during its 8th commencement exercises held on May 22, 2011, at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

One of the highlights of the occasion was the heart-warming inspirational talk by Marcia Ayuyu, general manager of McDonald's Saipan. Ayuyu spoke how she, at an early age, learned to work hard and how hard work has brought her to her successful career now. She emphasized that success begins

at an early age. She encouraged the students to "be happy and enjoy what you are doing for someday you will also be successful in life."

During the program, the graduates performed a special tribute for their parents through dance interpretation and poems. Jill Ann Marie Ong Mallari, valedictorian of the K5 class, represented her classmates with a speech thanking all the people who paved the way for them to move forward and complete an important stage in their education. (PR)



Marcia Ayuyu, inset, general manager of McDonald's Saipan, speaks to the parents and the 27 kindergarten students who were promoted to the next level during the Green Meadow School's 8th commencement exercises held on May 22, 2011 at Multi-Purpose Center. Other inset shows Ayuyu, assisted by GMS president Mila Merjilla, handing a trophy to K5 valedictorian Jill Anne Ong Mallari.



June 3, 1999

DPS: Zero tolerance for car insurance

The Department of Public Safety yesterday reminded motor vehicle owners that the full force of the Mandatory Liability Auto Insurance law will take effect this month. "We will be setting up check points and road blocks this month to conduct third party auto insurance inspection," said Major Clyde Norita. This CNMI-wide insurance inspection was first scheduled end of March and was moved this month to give vehicle owners enough time to comply with the law. However, Capt. Delbert Sablan said DPS has been demanding the third party liability from car owners involved in crashes since March. Involved parties are given seven days to show proof of car insurance.

SGMA says Global Survival Network conspired with 20/20

The Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association yesterday took great exception to a recent media account of the island's garment industry. An antigarment industry organization joined forces with a network news magazine show to link manufacturers to a broad range of problems on Saipan. "ABC's 20/20 is now the 'great aggregator'. Through insinuation and innuendo, they continue to be shameless in their complicity," stated SGMA Executive Director Richard A. Pierce. ABC's 20/20's effort was sparked by an undercover investigation by the Washington, D.C.-based Global Survival Network, headed by Steve Galster. Galster posed as Steven Galsten, CEO of the New York Boys and Girls Club.

June 3, 2002

Manglona to OPA: Audit the entire Senate

Senate President Paul A. Manglona has asked the Office of the Public Auditor to conduct a full audit on the entire Senate, in the wake of news reports about alleged violations of the government Ethics Act by some senators. In a letter to Public Auditor Michael S. Sablan dated May 31, Manglona said he wants the investigation and audit conducted to put these allegations to rest once and for all. This comes soon after Sen. Ramon S. Guerrero asked the OPA to investigate Manglona's office account funds, in connection with the alleged full-time employment of Senate Vice President Jose M. Dela Cruz's daughter, who is also a fulltime student at the University of Guam.

Officials lay down available US grants

The Commonwealth Development Authority administered Friday a whole day conference on federal funds that will prove beneficial to existing or new businesses in the Commonwealth. Officials from the Housing and Urban Development, Farm Service Agency, Rural Development, Economic Development Administration, and the U.S. Small Business Administration conducted a brief but complete presentation of funds that are available to CNMI residents. The "Federal Funders Conference", which ran from 9:30am to 3:30pm, provided participants information on existing funds that can be sourced out through the CDA and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

June 3, 2003

DOL looks into regs for CIP workers' wages

With the gubernatorial directive requiring the U.S. minimum wage level for workers involved in Capital Improvement Projects, there may be a need to review the regulations governing their contracts as this could lead to workers having two different wage levels at the same time. Department of Labor Secretary Jack Tenorio conceded this point last week, saying he will be looking into this issue with the department's legal counsel. The contracts of nonresident workers specify their wage levels and any changes in that level must also be reflected in the official records, with the employer going to the Labor Department to apply for an amended contract.

Private schools get federal money

Private schools can finally get their share of federal funds this fiscal year following a go-signal from the U.S. Department of Education. Public School System federal program officer William P. Matson said the USDE approved last week an amended resolution that authorizes the PSS to disburse a portion of its consolidated grants to private schools. "We've received word from the feds that private schools can officially have the money now," he said. The private schools would get nearly \$500,000 this school year. Each school would get a different amount, depending on the number of their students. Matson said there have been some changes made to the amendment rules but the intent remains intact.

Hodgson wins boatload of stuff in Anchor promotion

clarissa_david@saipantribune.com REPORTER

She promised her husband she would win him a boat. And she did.

Kathryn Hodgson, vice president and secretary of Hodgson Enterprises, Inc., is the sole happy winner from the CNMI of Anchor's Great Family Outdoor promotion.

Hodgson won NZD \$10,000 (about USD \$8,129) worth of Family Pack items that included an inflatable boat with motor; five life jackets; a canopy; a BBQ with gas bottle; three Nokia mobile phones; five fishing rod and reels; an Anchor chilly bin; five snorkel, mask and flipper sets; an Anchor rugby ball; an Anchor soccer ball; a beach volleyball set; two beach cricket sets; five boogie boards; five deluxe picnic chairs; three kites; and five Anchor caps.

Hodgson's winning entry was among the 5,000 entries submitted via entry form, email, and mail for the promotion of Anchor Milk, an iconic New Zealand brand and a leading dairy brand around the world distributed in the Marianas by Micronesian Brokers. Inc.

Customers who bought a liter of Anchor UHT milk were able to join the promotion that spanned 11 Pacific Island markets and began on Feb. 27 and ended on April 30 after a one-



Staff of Micronesian Brokers Inc. pose for a photo with the prizes for Anchor's Great Family Outdoor promotion at their warehouse in Lower Base yesterday morning. Kathryn Hodgson emerged as the big winner for the Family Pack items worth NZD \$10,000.

week extension.

One winner each from New Caledonia, Tahiti, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Cook Islands, Guam, Saipan, Tonga, Samoa, and Solomon Islands was drawn at the main office of Fonterra Brands, maker of Anchor, in New Zealand.

Hodgson received all the items with her husband Jim from Oscar San Agustin,

sales representative for Anchor, in a presentation ceremony held at the MBI warehouse in Lower Base.

A native of Iowa, Hodgson first traveled to Saipan about two years ago. "We were here for a two-week vacation to explore the island, compare prices and rates, and see about moving in."

Two years after, the Hodgsons

packed up their stuff, put up their house for sale, and moved to Saipan in December 2010.

"This is home now," said James Hodgson, president of their company, which specializes in consulting and research to help businesses improve.

James disclosed that he's the milk drinker in the family, buying four to five boxes of Anchor milk during the promotion.

Distributed by:

MICRONESIAN BROKERS (CNMI), INC.

It always tastes good and there's no aftertaste. It's the best brand we've found," he told Saipan Tribune.

James noted, however, that they were a bit reluctant to drink milk in a box, having heard many negative remarks about it.

"People from the U.S. tell us they can't get used to milk in a box and I kind of wondered about it. But with Anchor, we just put it in a fridge and it tastes good," he said.

The Hodgsons are excited to use the items they've won, particularly in July when their daughter flies to Saipan to see them.

"Where we came from, you can only use these items for a couple of weeks. Here on Saipan, we'll be able to use them any time of the year," added the father of four.

James said he already recommended Anchor to friends, even without winning the promotion. "It's really sweet and wholesome," he added.

Consolation winners

Kathy Pinaroc, Sales and Marketing Administration supervisor for MBI, said there are 40 more individuals who each won \$20 through the promo.

They are Tim Deleon Guerrero, Bobbie Cabrera, Ignacio DLG Aldan, Ruby Socorro

"Anchor is sweet and good. Besid, Michael Angelo Fitial, Teodorico Demayo, Adelina Tangoy, Micheal Manglona, Lorna Aglubat, Leilani Baquiran, Lourdes Camacho, Erneliza Artango, Julita Enriquez, Remy Castillo, Floyd Anthony Lim, Tina Kanetri, Garry Evilsizer, Esmeraldo Ting, Augusto Santos, Grace Huyna, Rosalinda Cal, Manuel Reyes, Probio Cabrera, Julita Enriquez, Joan Cabrera, Whilmer Sabino, Risha Torres, Raul Ortiz, Aileen Manalastas, George Bisek, Rhodora Tesero, Joseph Lifoifoi, Keoni Ichinhara, Candy Macalinao, Mary Ann Sablan, Floro Reyes, Vivian Garcia, and Joseph Pangelinan.

> Winners may contact Pinaroc at 322-3018 to claim their prizes.

Tent sale

To show their appreciation, Pinaroc said they will hold a tent sale on Saturday, June 4, from 8am to 2pm at the MBI warehouse in Lower Base. Customers can avail of 50 to 80 percent discount on Anchor and other products, except for Similac.

"A Day of Anchor Fun and Prizes" will also feature raffle drawings during the entire event.

"Continue to buy Anchor products and we guarantee our customers other exciting promotions we've lined up for the year," Pinaroc said.





Opinion



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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

Pimsleur and Rosetta Stone

By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at TropicalEd.com. Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday.



n last week's column I took a glance at the Chinese auto industry's booming fortunes, which, to my mind, serves as a leading indicator of China's overall economic potential. That's something of interest to anyone involved in Pacific tourism, as many folks in Saipan are. And many of these same people are, not coincidentally, studying Chinese. That's a challenging endeavor, but I've been able to provide comic relief with random updates on my bungling efforts with the language. Today: Another random update. Topic: The Pimsleur and Rosetta Stone Mandarin Chinese courses.

Yeah, we're going high-tech. Or at least more high-tech than mere books.

Both of these courses are high-quality offerings and both are big names in the language learning realm. Oh yeah, here's another commonality: Both are pricey.

I'll talk money first to give you the latest prices from the manufacturers. I called Pimsleur and was told it costs \$345 for each of three "volumes" in CD audio formats, so that's \$1,035 for the whole three-volume course. I called Rosetta Stone, which organizes things as a three "level" course, and was told all three levels together come to a total of \$379 on CD-ROM. Of course you can shop around as you see fit, but I wanted direct prices for the sake of offering you a consistent benchmark.

The basics run like so: Pimsleur, which comes from publishing powerhouse Simon & Schuster, is an audio course. Pimsleur is so named for one Paul Pimsleur, Ph.D., who developed a method of language instruction. This is a natural fit for using otherwise lost hours in the car. Pimsleur is focused solely on the verbal part of the language. Each lesson is 30 minutes long, and each volume is 30 lessons, so the entire gig is 90 lessons, plus some extra ones that I really haven't paid any attention to.

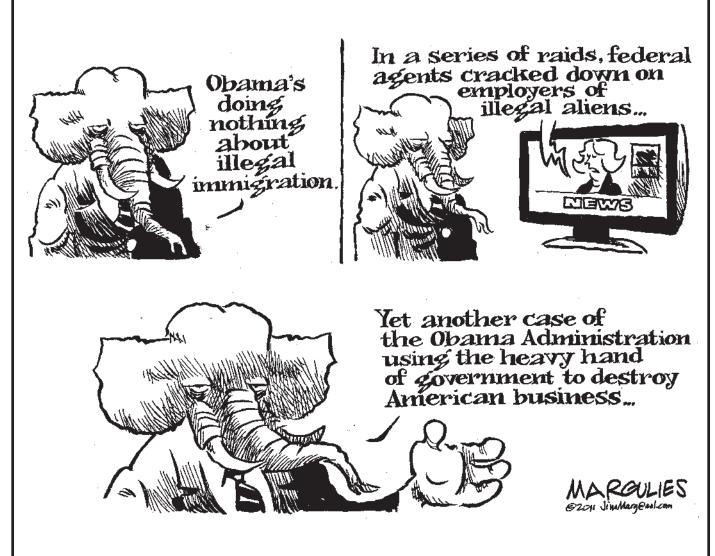
Rosetta Stone, by contrast, is a computer-based program with lots of eye candy. It is pretty fancy. It's energetically marketed and is sold and demonstrated at many U.S. airports and shopping malls.

I had a very specific context when I took a look at these products, and context is crucial here, so I'll spell it out. I didn't intend for Pimsleur or Rosetta Stone to be standalone tools for my Mandarin studies. To the contrary, they were ancillary tools, mere footnotes to my book and classroom efforts. I'm not qualified to advise you what to do; all I can do, as usual, is relate my experience from the linguistic trenches, where I have earned many scars but no ribbons.

My experience has been like so: The Pimsleur, which I bought, has been extremely helpful, since the hardest part of Chinese for me is the listening comprehension. Pimsleur's aural drills are ingeniously crafted. And, since I can listen in the car, or when I'm collapsed in a hotel room traveling and too tired to see straight, the Pimsleur makes productive time out of otherwise lost minutes.

As for Rosetta Stone, I didn't buy it but I've had access to it at a language learning center. Since it's a computer-based system, every minute I spend on Rosetta Stone is a minute taken away from my book time. So the issue for me is whether or not Rosetta Stone is more productive per unit time than book learning is. For me, it's not. But that's not a shortcoming of the program, it's just the na-

See A BRIEF on Next Page



A bill that's meant to kill Saipan zoning

s a concerned citizen of the CNMI I would like to comment on House Local Bill 17-26 S1, introduced by Rep. Stanley Torres. This bill will drastically change the future landscape of the island of Saipan and has far-reaching ramifications affecting property values and the quality of life of all residents and visitors. It will basically undo any and all improvements that zoning has accomplished over the last three years. Essentially it will kill zoning in everything but name, which I am sure is the intent.

As a resident, a voter, and a former zoning board member, I am appalled at the amount of time and effort spent on proposed legislation to undermine the legally established role of a specific governmental agency. It is irresponsible to introduce legislation without articulating the reasons for the legislation or providing an impact analysis to quantify any impacts and effects the legislation might result in. At this juncture in time when the CNMI's economy is in desperate need of recovery I would expect our elected leaders to concentrate on important issues and ideas that will be of benefit in the long run. There are no quick fixes.

As I stated earlier, this bill will drastically impact zoning and will change the landscape of the whole island of Saipan. We will be basically back to the anything-goes mentality of the past. I would now like to address some specific impacts of this bill:

Rezoning along paved thoroughfares

"Section 3. Amendment. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008, all areas that border any and all major paved thoroughfares 600 feet from the centerlines on either side of such street that are not zoned "MC" Mixed Commercial are hereby rezoned to "MC" Mixed Commercial. This provision does not apply to "IN" Industrial zoned areas."

In my opinion this one sentence will effectively rezone the neighborhoods of 90 percent of the residents of Saipan to Mixed Commercial. Some permitted uses allowed in a Mixed Commercial zone will be auto shops, heavy equipment and machinery shops, gas stations, barracks, septic system services, retail construction material suppliers, pawnshops, farms, contractor's offices and storage yards, manufacturing facilities, processing plants, and warehousing.

By rezoning all lands within 600 feet of paved roads to Mixed Commercial (regardless of compatibility with surrounding areas) several zoning districts are eliminated, specifically:

1). **Beach Road Zoning District**. This district from Garapan all the way to Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road at the Microl Toyota intersection is eliminated.

By HERMINIA MATSUMOTO FUSCO

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Herminia Matsumoto Fusco is a former chairperson of the Saipan zoning board. The article contains her comments as a private citizen.



eliminated. Note that this results in permitted density actually being reduced in many cases.

3). **Garapan Core.** This district, from the fire station to parts of

2). Tourist Resort Zoning District. This district in Garapan

from American Memorial Park all the way to PIC in San Antonio is

- Hyatt Hotel to Fiesta Hotel to Winchell's Donuts is eliminated.

 (A) Carapan Fast This district from the Beach Boad/Micro
- 4). **Garapan East.** This district, from the Beach Road/Micro Beach Road intersection at American Memorial Park to Garapan Elementary School is eliminated.

These four zoning districts were incorporated into the Zoning Law by way of the *Garapan and Beach Road Revitalization Master Plan*, which was prepared for the Zoning Office by the Maker Architecture and Urban Design firm back in 2007 (available on the zoning website under publications). This plan included work session participants from the community as well as elected officials, and was paid for by federal grants from OIA, Department of the Interior, and local funds. So basically a land use plan for our most important tourism asset, prepared by experts after much consultation with all members of the community, is being thrown out with no justification as to why.

New allowable uses

Section 4 in the bill "Table of Allowable Uses" dramatically changes all of the different uses in each zoning district, especially RURAL and PUBLIC RESOURCE. The end result is that almost all land uses are permitted in these two zones with virtually no conditional uses. Permitted means exactly that. Virtually anything is permitted, as a right. No public hearings will be required. I myself live in a rural zone. Most of the land on Saipan is currently zoned as rural. While my property does not front a paved road I am only approximately 150 feet from the road (that would be within the 600-foot boundary). If any of my neighbors on all four sides of me decides to establish an auto repair shop, barracks, asphalt or concrete plant, slaughterhouse, factory, ma-

See ZONING on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Con-

tributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Priorities in education

By DAVID KHORRAM, M.D.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

David Khorram, MD, is a board-certified ophthalmologist and the medical director of Marianas Eye Institute, which as been hailed by Retinal Physician Magazine as "one of the bestequipped eye clinics in the Asia-Pacific region." Dr. Khorram is listed in Guide to American's



Top Ophthalmologists and is a member of the American Society of Retina Specialists.

ur family is staying on Saipan. After several months of planning to move to the U.S., we have decided to stay. I'm back at Marianas Eye Institute again, for good. People often ask me what led to this decision. Why did we plan to leave Saipan and what made us decide to stay? Well, the answer is multi-faceted, but one big aspect of it had to do with our children's education.

One of the major things that take many people away from small communities such as ours is the desire for education. I grew up in a small town in the Appalachian mountains of Kentucky, in a family that highly valued education. The year I entered high school, a study was released that showed the state of Kentucky lagged a year behind the nation in education, and our town was a year behind the state. So, I was facing the prospect of graduating high school with the equivalent of a sophomore education. Together with my parents, we made the decision that I would go away to boarding school. At 14 years old, I moved 500 miles away from home, and received a great education, but I missed my parents, and the small town culture I was used to in Kentucky.

All of this was rumbling in my mind as I realized our eldest daughter is only a year away from high school. We have been very happy with the education available to our children here on Saipan. We are even happy with the education here at the high school level. We know that the programs are very solid in the core subjects. But high school is a time of exploration, and as we talked to friends in the states, we saw their kids having broad choices during their high school years. For example, in addition to U.S. History, many schools offer courses in Asian History, African History, Middle Eastern History. Comparative religion courses offer detailed studies of the world's religions. Math departments offer higher level cal-

culus and statistics. And in the larger schools, with more resources, the art, drama and music programs have dozens of course offerings. There are simply more choices in some of the school systems in the U.S. than we have here.

As we started to look at communities there, our friends and family living in the U.S. were fairly cautious. "This is not the same country you left 20 years ago. Yes, educational choices are broad here, but there are a lot of challenges that kids in the U.S. face, and they're not all good." We were a bit surprised, but as we got more input and as we thought about it, we saw more clearly what we were being cautioned about. After all, although our youth here are influenced by the media, and by U.S. pop culture, there is a strong sense of family here that helps anchor them. We realized that on Saipan, we have the force of the Asian-Pacific cultures working with us to raise children who see themselves as part of a family and a community. The values of interdependence provide cohesion that is not a part of many Western cultures. The value we place here on elders, on respect, on civility, are woven into the fabric of daily life here. There is not the atomization of society so often seen elsewhere. Education, in it's broadest sense, is not just material education, but encompasses broader ideas of human education—social and spiritual education.

Ultimately, we decided that what is important to us is to raise children who turn out to be good people, even if they are not as educated as the most educated. If both possibilities were present, all the better, but given the choice, we realized it was more important to us to raise our kids to be decent rather than smart. It reminded me of something I'd read years ago: "Training in morals and good conduct is far more important than book learning. A child that is cleanly, agreeable, of good character, well-behaved—even though he be ignorant—is preferable to a child that is rude, unwashed, illnatured, and yet becoming deeply versed in all the sciences and arts. The reason for this is that the child who conducts himself well, even though he be ignorant, is of benefit to others, while an ill-natured, ill-behaved child is corrupted and harmful to others, even though he be learned. If, however, the child be trained to be both learned and good, the result is light upon light.'

Of course, there are lots of people who grow up in America, who have the best education, and who grow up to be both decent and smart. But for us, we figure we need all the help we can get guiding our children. And this community, just by the nature of its culture, provides an environment that supports families in turning out good people.

We might be giving up the breadth of educational opportunities available in other communities, but we know that by staying on Saipan, our kids have a better chance of growing up to be decent

Another conflicting example in the bill is Section 4, Article 4, Section 404 Allowable Uses in Zoning Districts, Table 1. Adult business will be "Permitted" under the "Beach Road Zoning District" but Section 3 in this bill will eliminate the Beach Road Zoning District. Also, there are numerous technical mistakes in the bill. For example, the route numbers for Sugar King Road, Navy Hill Road, and Kagman Road are all misidentified.

In closing, I would like to appeal to all of you to oppose this bill. Do not be fooled by the language. It is not the intent of the bill to improve the zoning process. It is the intent of the bill to kill zoning. Members of the Saipan delegation will be remiss in their duties if they do not insist that the author of this bill explains its purpose. It will be a travesty for the island of Saipan and its residents if this bill passes. If we value our way of life and the future of Saipan, then we should protect it and not destroy it. Let the Zoning Office utilize its expertise to do its job to recommend the amendments to the zoning law. No one believes that the current law is perfect. Work to make it better, not just to destroy what has been accomplished. The author of this bill was instrumental in killing zoning 20 years ago. The excuse then was that it (zoning) was killing development. So what did we gain by rescinding zoning 20 years ago? Just more Third World-style development. We like to throw around the term "world class." The "world class" projects that have occurred in Saipan in the last 20 years can be counted on one hand. Although we like to think otherwise, there is no shortage of islands in the world with sandy beaches. Personally I would like to see Saipan become the Bermuda of the Pacific: orderly, clean, and prosperous. Others appear to want to see Saipan become the Haiti of the Pacific. It's time to stop worrying about the special interests or self-interest of a few and make a commitment once and for all to support

people, and ultimately that is more important priority in education to us. We face a lot of challenges in our community right now, but we still have strengths that make Saipan a home worth loving.

Letters to the Editor

Where's the father?

First, I hope for the best for Faloma and Maleina, that they may speedily be found and their family will have hope with continuous support in their efforts to find their beloved girls.

I do not know nor have I anything personal against the girls' non-custodial father but why, in such a small tight knit community, such girls just suddenly and quietly disappeared? In view of Faloma's and Maleina's disappearances and with everyone and everything involved in this case, I have yet to read any news regarding their father's interview. Considering the fact that the girls' residence is in a tight community with probing experts involving the whole community, why hasn't anyone gone beyond the island to search for them if no one has done so? Perhaps their father is now being interviewed or interrogated; I haven't the foggiest idea.

Undoubtedly, no two communities are alike but, based on nationwide results of missing children, regardless of the where the abductor lives, his background, and income, sometimes the abductor involves a family member; especially, if the child(ren) were suddenly kidnapped in such a quiet way. Ran away? If they ran away and still haven't been found, well, let's hope they have the strength and courage to speak up and get some kind of help; otherwise, kudos to them for outsmarting investigators. To some extent, children can hide very well, even run away but, given Saipan's size of 44.55 square miles with a population of a little over 62,392, it seems impossible for a child to be missing this long at their age in a "tight knit community." They would have been found or returned home. You don't have to be a child psychologist. If their prospect is hoping to never be found, with professional investigators and missing children's organizations involved, they would have been found. Therefore, running away or even hiding is ruled out.

So, why isn't the father included in investigation interview(s)? Despite being a former police officer in Saipan, that fact is not reason enough for him not to be interrogated, nor living on a different island exempt him from questions or interrogations. If it hasn't been done, it just doesn't make sense that he should be unquestioned or ruled out. In today's world, anything is possible. Based on the Saipan Tribune and Guam PDN, the family has not mentioned nor asked that the father be interviewed. I don't have any conclusion, just all speculations. I don't know, I can only hope that the girls be immediately returned to their

May God bless and protect the girls, bringing renewed strength and hope to their beloved families and friends.

Rachel Mae

San Bernardino, Calif.

PIMSLEUR

From Page 10

ture of how I do things. Rosetta Stone is certainly more enjoyable than book time is, and less mentally exhausting, since the graphics and multi-media stuff are very slick and have a very friendly feel to them. From what I've seen it looks more like a vocabulary builder than a grammar teacher, but I haven't spent a lot of time with it.

Earlier this year I ran into the best student from my first semester of Chinese. I was hoping to hear about his great progress in the language. But he told me that he took one more semester and then simply got so discouraged that he gave up. Yikes.

It really is a war of attrition. So I'd say that when it comes to Chinese learning tools, be they books, computer programs, audio courses, flash cards, websites, classroom courses, or even helpful friends, anything that keeps us in the game is something to value.

My occasional stabs at this topic have triggered a lot of email discussions with readers, so if you've got any thoughts on it, I'm always happy to hear from you. Maybe if we put our heads together we can figure this language out.

Or maybe we'll just get a headache.

ZONING

From Page 10

chinery, sheet metal, welding, or dry cleaning shop, there is nothing I can do because they will all be permitted uses. A lot of people live in the rural zoning district whose quality of life will be greatly impacted by this bill. This bill shows no respect or regards for the future of this island, its people, its environment, its beauty, and most importantly its main and perhaps only substantial potential industry, tourism.

The Public Resource Zoning District, which includes our parks, trails, beaches, museums, cultural centers, tourist sites, memorials, historic sites, wetlands, habitat, and water supplies will now permit such uses as barracks, nightclubs, auto repair shop, asphalt or concrete plant, contractor's office and storage, mining, gas & fuel wholesale, junkyard, slaughterhouse, factories, processing plants, warehousing, general wholesaling, incinerators, sanitary landfill, garbage transfer stations, wastewater plants, and construction material yard. Almost every use is now permitted in public resource areas. This means that anyone can establish an auto repair shop on Suicide Cliff, next to the Grotto or Bird Island areas, or any beach coastal area without any public hearings because it is a "Permitted" use. Why are we doing this? What is the rationale for this destruction?

This bill is also convoluted with conflicting provisions that don't make sense. Several examples are:

Section 2., e) Saipan Official Zoning Map Sheet 13 of 29 will rezone the area immediately above CHC leading to Manual A. Sablan, Evergreen Property to Grace Christian Academy, including the Vocational Rehabilitation and Domestic Violence Center on....from "Rural" to "Village Commercial." This rezone will change the area from Rural to Village Commercial, but in this same bill under Section 3, all properties within 600 feet of the Navy Hill Road centerline will be rezoned to "Mixed Commercial." So which rezone takes precedence?

orderly growth.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian



Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.

▲88° ▼78°



Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Fast winds 10 to 20 mph.

▲ 88° **▼ 7**8°



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲88° ▼78°



Partly cloudy with

isolated showers.



Partly cloudy with

isolated showers.

78°

	88°	▼78°	▲88°	▼ 7
_				_

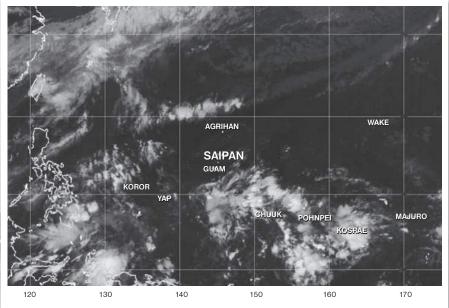
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲ 88 ▼ 82
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Rain	▲ 83 ▼ 77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 83 ▼ 77
Kosrae	Rain	▲ 84 ▼ 79
Maiuro	Thunderstorms	▲83 ▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲ 62	▼57
Beijing	Cloudy	≜ 85	₹68
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲ 86	▼ 79
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 83	▼ 74
London	Partly Cloudy	▲ 74	₹56
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 75	▼ 56
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 90	₹79
Melbourne	Showers	▲ 59	₹48
Miami	Showers	\$88	₹78
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲ 77	▼58
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 79	▼65
Paris	Thundershowers	▲ 79	▼ 61
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 73	₹61
Rome	Mostly Sunny	≜ 82	▼ 63
Salem	Showers	▲ 67	▼53
San Francisco	Showers	≜ 58	₹53
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 75	▼61
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 76	▼ 65
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲ 79	▼63

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 2011

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front curves westward from 25N161E to just west of the far Northern Mariana Islands at 19N142E to beyond 130E at 20N. Scattered showers are found along and up to 140 miles northwest of the front west of 136E. A few thunderstorms are present along this boundary. A monsoon trough extends southeastward from 7N130E to end at EQ144E. Scattered showers are located south and west of Koror between 9N and the equator from 130E to 135E. A surface trough runs southward from 10N150E to 2N151E. Converging winds west of the trough axis are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms west of Chuuk between 9N and 4N from 143E to 150E. Converging east winds are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Kosrae and Pohnpei between 10N and the equator from 157E to 164E and also over the Marshall Islands within 90 miles of a line from 7N165E to 7N174E.

Tides

Saipan Ha	rbor		
2:45 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
7:25 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
2:53 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
10:02 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset						
Today	5:46 AM	6:44 PM				
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:45 PM				
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:45 PM				
Monday	5:46 AM	6:45 PM				
Tuesday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM				

Mod	nrise/Mooi	nset
Today	6:39 AM	8:00 PM
Saturday	7:35 AM	8:51 PM
Sunday	8:32 AM	9:40 PM
Monday	9:29 AM	10:27 PM
Tuesday	10:25 AM	11:11 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

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PICTURES

following

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones,
- accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday. Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, grant-
- ing of awards, team-building exercises, meetings are other activities by members of the business community. ■ SAMU'T SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily
- focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc. **■ TRÁVELOGUE**
- Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and

private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- otos should be original and not copyrighted. Contrib utors must have the right to allow the Saipan Tribune to publish the pictures. \blacksquare Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of
- 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months. ■ For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

■ Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number. ■ Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to

next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com
- Fax: (670) 235-3740 Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center Beach Boad, Garapan, Saipan

To check if contributions are 6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions the date of publication size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print electronic or other media formats
- The Saipan Tribune will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.

 For Travelogue, the Saipan Tribune reserves the right
- to choose which pictures to publish.

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2011

	_						
DE	PAR	TUR	ES	ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN	-GUAI	M		GUAM-S	AIPA	N	
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	,	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	5K389	1:35pm	2:25pm	1, 4, 6
5K382	,	6:50pm	2, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm		1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	,	7:20pm	Daily	C09604	,	6:00pm	Daily
C09599	,	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm	,	Daily
SAIPAN	-NARI	ITA (NE	RT)	NARITA	(NRT)-SAIP	AN
DL287		8:45am	Daily	DL298	•	3:00pm	Daily
DL297		7:20pm	Daily	DL288		12:35am+1	,
SAIPAN	-BUS/	AN (PU	S)	BUSAN	(PUS)	-SAIP	\N
0Z608		6:50am	1, 5	0Z607		2:20am+1	
CAIDAN	CEOL	II (IAN	18	CEOUL A		CAIDAI	.
SAIPAN		-		SEOUL (
0Z606		6:00am	1	0Z603	9:00am	,	2, 4, 6, 7
0Z606		6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	0Z605	,	1:10am+1	7
0Z604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	0Z605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN	-SHAI	NGHAI	(PVG)	SHANGI		-	
MU590	4:30am	7:20am	2, 6	MU589	8:50pm	3:30am+1	1, 5
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 5	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN	-GUAI	NZHOU	(CAN)	GUANZI	HOU (CAN)-S	AIPAN
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 4	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN	-MAN	ILA (M	NL)	MANILA	(MNI	L)-SAIP	AN
0Z606/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN	0Z704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	DL172/288	7:45am	12·35am+1	via ICN Daily via NRT
C09317/891	4·25am	9:45am	3. 6 via GUM	C0890/9606	10:55am		3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173		10:15pm	Daily	02702/605		1:10am+1	
		,	via NRT	02702/605	,	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
C09313/933		8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM				via ICN
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM	C0892/9596	9:55pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM- Palau
C09603/893	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	
			Palau	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7
0Z604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN				via GUM
0Z604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7	C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 4, 7
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7				via GUM
			via GUM	C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:25am+1	3, 6 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN	-HON	G KONO	3	HONG K	ONG-	SAIPAN	l
0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN	0Z724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7				via ICN
			via ICN	0Z750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM			•	via ICN
5K168	,	6:35pm	1, 4, 6	5K169	9:55am	5:00pm	2, 5, 7
0Z604/749	,	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	0Z722/605	1:25pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
•	.,	r	via ICN	0Z722/605	1:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
				C0910/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	via ICN 1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7): 5K: FlyGuam: 3U: Sichuan Airlines: MU: China Eastern: CZ: China Southern: CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not esponsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA F	requency	Airline	ETD	ETA Fr	equency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan			,	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota			,	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Saipan-Rota			,	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Rota-Guam			,	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
			′	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				

NMI CRIME **STOPPERS**

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone ■ Log on to the internet at
- www.nmicrimestoppers.com

SAIPAN TRIBUNE FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 2011 13



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VISA

2011 LibDay candidates make first public appearance

REPORTER

The three candidates for the 2011 Liberation Day Queen made its first public appearance during the 42nd annual memorial service of the Okinawa delegation at the Tower of Okinawa in Marpi last May 30.

Fifteen-year old Joni C. Castro. 18-vear-old Mariah I. Ada. and 17-year-old Nizelynn T. Masayos joined Mayor Donald G. Flores and Liberation Committee chair Vinycia Seman at the event.

Castro, Ada, and Masayos were among those who offered food, incense, and prayers for all the war dead.

Seman, in an interview, said



2011 Liberation Day Queen candidates Joni Castro, Mariah Ada, and Nizelynn Masayos offer food, incense, and prayers during the 42nd annual memorial service of the Okinawa delegation at the Tower of Okinawa in Marpi last Monday. The event was the candidates' first public appearance since their pinning and presentation to the media.

the event was also the first public appearance of last year's Liberation Day Queen candidates.

"It's one way of having them experience what a future queen does," Seman told Saipan Tribune. "We also want them to get involved in community events and activities."

Seman added that the three candidates will be part of all activities and events in which the Mayor is invited.

The annual memorial service is conducted on Saipan and Tinian by members of the Micronesia Repatriation Association and the Bereaved Family United Association.

Urazoe City Mayor Mitsuo Gima, Okinawa Prefectural Assembly chair Zenshin Takamine, Micronesia Repatriation Association's Zenichi Taira, and Bereaved Family United Association representatives Susumu Akamine and Yoshio Miyagi led the 65member delegation in this year's memorial service.

NMC hosts free info session for international students

The Northern Marianas College will be hosting a free information session for international students on Monday, June 6, 2011, from 2pm to 4pm in Room D1 at the college's As Terlaje campus. Individuals interested in furthering their education and advancing their professional careers are encouraged to attend.

Admissions director Cynthia Deleon Guerrero and international counselor Ni Deleon Guerrero will be providing admissions information and explaining application procedures for international students, including immigration and student visa matters.

NMC offers a variety of degree programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (emphasis on early childhood education, elementary education, special education, and rehabilitation and human services) as well as various associate degrees including business, business administration (emphasis on accounting, business management, and computer applications), criminal justice, liberal arts, natural resources management, nursing, and hospitality management.

The free information session is open to all international students interested in learning more about the steps necessary to gain admission to NMC. For more information, contact NMC international counselor Ni Deleon Guerrero at 234-5498 ext. 1322 or send her an email at nidlg@ nmcnet.edu. (NMC)



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CCA, Karidat get \$10K gift from TakeCare Foundation

REPORTER

The TakeCare Foundation presented \$10,000 worth of grants to two non-profit organizations on Saipan in a ceremony at FHP Health Center in Garapan yesterday.

Sylvia D. Duenas, foundation chairperson, led the presentation of a \$5,000 check to the board members and staff of the Commonwealth Cancer Association and another \$5,000 check to representatives of Karidat's House of Manhoben.

TakeCare Foundation consists of employees of TakeCare Insurance and the FHP Health Center who give contributions to support charitable and educational causes that enhance the health, wellness and welfare of individuals, families, and communities to which it belongs.

Duenas said the two non-profit organizations are among the four chosen beneficiaries for TakeCare Foundation's first grant cycle for 2011. The other two are from Guam and will be receiving their grants next week.

"They applied for the grant in December 2010 and were selected based on a set of criteria," she explained.

Duenas disclosed that five non-profit organizations on Saipan and Guam applied for the grant, with the maximum grant of \$5,000 to be awarded to each chosen organization.

"We're very excited because this is the first time in years that TakeCare Foundation awarded grants to non-profit organizations on Saipan," she told Saipan Tribune. "We believe in what they do."

Duenas urged other nonprofit organizations to check out their website, www.takecareasia.com, to download forms then submit their applications.

"We would love to help. We highly encourage non-profit organizations to apply for a grant with TakeCare Foundation," she added

CCA board chair Bud White thanked TakeCare Foundation for the "generous contribution" which he said will be used primarily for community outreach activities.

"We really, really appreciate them, especially the employees who are part of TakeCare Foundation and make contributions to make this donation possible," he said.

used to educate the community,

White said the grant will be particularly the women, to become more aware of breast and

cervical cancers.

"We also want to train volunteers and get the word out about cancer awareness in the community," he added.



TakeCare Foundation chair Sylvia D. Duenas, far right, poses with the staff and board members of the Commonwealth Cancer Association after awarding a grant worth \$5,000 yesterday at the FHP Health Center in Garapan. TakeCare Foundation also awarded a \$5,000 grant to Karidat's House of Manhoben. Also in photo are, from left, CCA board chair Bud White, FHP clinic supervisor Nora Sablan, Public Health Cervical Cancer Outreach project assistant Tatiana Olopai, board members Laurie T. Ogumoro, Jack Hardy, and program manager Tina Sablan.

Saipan World Resort captures Chefs' Competition

The final night of the 13th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden was highlighted by the Chefs' Competition, pitting five teams of hotel junior chefs against each other. Chefs Rommel Villariza and Roland Santos of Saipan World Resort emerged from the fire to win the competition with their "Island Beach BBQ."

Each team started with a 10lb slab of Certified Angus Beef chuck roll and were judged on taste, tenderness/texture, presentation of the theme, and degree of difficulty.

Winning second place were chefs Joel Linaogo and Eduardo Gabito Jr. of Pacific Islands Club Saipan with their CAB Round Flat Cut "Island Barbecue Cook-off." In third were Jojo Sioco and Liberto Andal of Hafadai Beach Hotel with their Angus Beef Bottom Round Flat "Wellington Red Wine Sauce." The other teams consisted of Asperin Uden and Jessie Aguon of Hyatt Regency Saipan and Evaristo Estabillo and Alfredo Capacio of Fiesta Resort & Spa.

Top winners received tro-

phies courtesy of Marianas Visitors Authority and cash prizes from Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands: \$500 for first place, \$300 for second place, and \$200 for third place. The competition was also sponsored by Certified Angus Beef, provided by Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods.

The Chefs' Competition and final Taste celebration this year was also covered by Korean travel magazine Travie that will feature a 12-page culinary excursion in the Northern Marianas in an upcoming issue. (MVA)



Last seen: As Teo, Saipan CNMI

Date missing: 6am, Wednesday, May 25, 2011

Name: Luhk, Maleina Age: 9 years old Height: 4 feet

Weight: 50-60 pounds

Eyes: Brown Hair: Brown **Body: Petite** Complexion: Tan

Characteristics: Circle birthmark left cheek Last wearing: White blouse and jeans

Last seen: As Teo, Saipan CNMI

Date missing: 6am, Wednesday, May 25, 2011

Name: Luhk, Faloma Age: 10 years old Height: 5.1 feet Weight: 90 pounds **Lyes:** Brown Hair: Short brown **Body: Petite**

Last wearing: Light green shirt with a butterfly design on the front with blue jeans

Complexion: Tan

DPS is seeking help from the public. Please call 911 or contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use our website at www.nmicrimestoppers.com. Crime stoppers pays up to \$1,000.00 for any information leading to an arrest. Additional \$1,000.00 is also being offered!

Please help FIND FALOMA AND MALEINA Family Contact Nos. 256-0054 or 285-4048









'Prosecution failed to prove fruit bats' time of death

Adrian Mendiola, a retired police lieutenant who has asked the federal court to acquit him or give him a new trial in a fruit bat poaching case, asserts that the U.S. government failed to give evidence on the time of death of the fruit bats that were found in a freezer inside his home.

Mendiola, through counsel

Ramon K. Quichocho, argued that anything short of a time of death examination/analysis is pure conjecture whether the bats found in a freezer were taken in violation of the Endangered Species Act and regulations.

Quichocho said the final rule

that became effective on Feb. 7, 2005, reclassified the Pteropus mariannus mariannus (the Mariana fruit bat) from endangered to threatened in Guam and listed as threatened in the CNMI.

Quichocho said the U.S. government failed to present any evidence, forensic or otherwise, of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife on the time of death of any of

the freezer bats.

He said the U.S. government's witness-Dr. Tabitha Viner, a pathologist at the forensic labdetermined the cause of death of the four freezer bats, but she did not perform a time of death examination or analysis at all. Dr. Rhoda Ralston, a former pathologist at the forensic lab, also for only two of the freezer bats, but she did not perform a time of death examination or analysis.

"Clearly, the [U.S.] government failed to present sufficient evidence to maintain a conviction," said Ouichocho.

A federal jury had found Mendiola guilty of unlawful

determined the cause of death possession of a threatened wildlife. He is set to be sentenced on Aug. 26, 2011.

> Mendiola, Albert Taitano, and David Santos were indicted over poaching incidents in 2008 on Rota. The case against Taitano and Santos were dismissed at the prosecution's recommendation. (Ferdie de la Torre)

Lawyer in discrimination suit insists on default judgment vs defunct factory

A lawyer representing an alien worker in a lawsuit against a defunct garment manufacturer is insisting that the federal court should enter a default judgment against the company despite an error in his response to the court's order.

Attorney Stephen C. Woodruff, counsel for Reynaldo L. Garcia, said their response to the court's order to show cause indicates the order was entered "Aug. 20, 2011" when it should have read "May 20, 2011."

Woodruff said their response also stated that attorney Richard W. Pierce was "shown on records filed with the Registrar of Corporations of the CNMI to be the registered agent for defendant."

"This is incorrect and an error by counsel in preparing the response," he said.

Despite the error, he said, Garcia believes service on defendant Poong-in Saipan Inc.'s attorney of record from an underlying EEOC case should be deemed effective service of the summons.

Garcia's lawsuit has been pending for more than six months without any action taken by the parties in that period. The U.S. District Court for the NMI gave Garcia and Poong-In until last Friday to explain why the court should not dismiss the case.

alleged that because of his national origin, the factory did not *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Garcia, a Filipino mechanic, renew his contract and instead hired some Chinese nationals.

Registration opens for Teachers Institute

The NMI Council for the Humanities announces the opening of registration for the 2011 Teachers Institute that will be held in August.

According to the council's executive director, Scott Russell, the institute is a bi-annual council program undertaken in conjunction with the CNMI Public School System.

It features presentations by local and off-island scholars and is intended to provide participants with a thorough overview of NMI history from ancient times to present.

The Institute, which will run from Aug. 1 to 20, 2011, is open to public and private K-12 teachers on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

In past years, teaches from Rota and Tinian participated remotely via video teleconferencing. Russell noted that this year, scholars will make separate presentations on those islands, allowing for face-to-face interaction with participants.

Russell said that successful completion of the Institute will allow PSS teachers to fulfill the local history requirement of their teaching credentials.

The registration form and an institute schedule may be obtained from the Humanities Council office in Gualo Rai, from the Human Resources Office at PSS on Capitol Hill, or downloaded from the council's website at www.nmihumanities.org.

A non-refundable registration fee of \$100 includes supplemental PowerPoint programs, light refreshments, and a completion certificate.

Registration forms and fees must be received by the Council no later than 4pm on July 15. Institute seating is limited and teachers will be registered on a first-come, first-served basis.

Contact council program officer Merced Ada at 235-4785 for more information. (PR)



In fact, if you don't wear your seat belt, you could be thrown into a rapidly opening frontal air bag; a movement of such force could injure or even kill you. See www.safecar.gov for more information on air bag safety.



HOW TO BUCKLE UP SAFELY:

The lap belt and shoulder belt are secured across the pelvis and rib cage, which are more able to withstand crash forces.



FIT MATTERS.

- Before you buy a new car, check to see that its seat belts are fit for you.
- Ask your dealer about seat belt adjusters, which can help you get the best fit.
- If you need a roomier belt, contact your vehicle manufacturer to obtain seat belt extenders.
- If you drive an older or classic car with lap belts only, check with your vehicle manufacturer about how to retrofit your car with today's safe lap/shoulder belts.



OCCUPANT PROTECTION IS FOR EVERYONE.

Visit the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Website at www.nhtsa.gov and click on 4 Steps for Kids to find out how to secure your littlest passengers.

If you're expecting a little one, check out NHTSA's "Should pregnant women wear seat belts?" brochure online to learn how important it is for you — and your unborn child — to buckle up the right way every trip, every time.

NEED MORE HELP?

Contact us: For more information about seat belts, child safety seats, air bags, and adapting motor vehicles for drivers with special needs, call the DPS Traffic Division at 664-9085 or Highway Safety Office at 664-9121 to

Remember: For your safety and for the safety of all vehicle passengers, seat belt use for adults is required by law in all States in the United States and on all Federal lands.









HONOR SOCIETY

Michael Albuen Villagomez has been inducted into Alpha Lambda Delta for National Academic Honor Society for Freshmen. Villagomez is a sophomore student of California State Polytechnic University Pamona, majoring in Electrical Engineering. He is a graduate of Mount Carmel School on Saipan. His parents, Frank P. Villagomez and Rell A. Villagomez, are proud of their son.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Happy 18th birthday Richelle Janelle Cabrera! Today it is your birthday and it's hoped that it will bring all that you would wish Have a great day! Greetings come from Mom, Jr. Suel III, Erica, Jenny, RJ, and family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



NEW GRADUATE

Congratulations to our Alliant International University graduate, Jerold Torres Sablan, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in Integrated Marketing and Communications.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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NEW X O MARKET FAMILY BAGS

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AND A LOT MORE ITEMS ON SALE...

We accept Food Stamps and all major credit cards. Prices may change without prior notice. Selected items are limited per customer.





MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2011 AND 2012

The Marianas Public Land Trust (MPLT) and the Office of the Public Auditor are soliciting proposals for the financial and compliance audits of MPLT for the two fiscal years ending September 30, 2011 and 2012. Separate audits and reports are to be performed and issued for each year. The audits shall be performed in compliance with the following guidelines:

STANDARDS:

The audit shall be performed in accordance with Generally Accepted Auditing Standards and Government Auditing Standards (for Audit of Government Organizations, Programs, Activities, and Functions issued by the Comptroller General of the United States).

The audit report shall included the auditor's opinion on the financial statements, the auditor's report on the review and evaluation of internal controls, and the auditor's report on compliance with laws, regulations, grants, and contracts.

Proposals must have the following information:

TITILE PAGE:

- Request for Proposal Subject Name of the CPA or CPA firm
- Local address and telephone number

 Name of contact person and submission date

- Briefly state your understanding of the audit to be performed. Include an affirmative statement that your firm can perform and complete the work with the time specified.

 State a comprehensive fee for which the work will be performed
- Briefly describe your work plan and state the target dates for the entrance and exit conference and for the delivery of the draft and final audit report package.

COMPANY'S PROFILE:

- Provide a brief description of the proposer firm, personnel, including educational background and experience, number of staff and staff levels (partner, manager, auditors, etc) and client listing.
- The proposer must make an affirmative statement or provide supporting document to state/show that; (1) at least the partners are certified public accountants (CPA's), (2) it meets all the independence requirement of the applicable auditing standards, (3) it does not have a record of substandard audit work (4) it meets all specified requirement imposed by the CNMI laws and other regulations, and (5) its system of quality control for accounting and auditing practice is in conformity with standards established by the Peer Review Board of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA).
- The proposal should identify Principals/Partners: Audit Managers and other staff members who will work on the audit and provide resumes showing relevant experience and compliance with the continuing education requirement of the auditing

PROPOSAL EVALUATION CRITERIA:

The proposal will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

- Responsiveness of the proposal in clearly stating an understanding of the scope of work to be performed and completing the work on time (25%)
- Qualifications and experience of the firm (25%)
- Qualifications and technical competence of the staff to be assigned. Education, position in the firm, and years and types of experience will be considered (25%)
- 4. Audit fee (25%)

Cost is not expected to be the controlling factor in the selection of a Contractor for this solicitation. The degree of importance of cost can increase should the proposers substantially receive equal points (within 3%) after evaluating the first three criteria. In that event, the best and final cost/price may be requested and negotiated with the responsive and qualified proposers. The right to award based upon the proposed cost/price however, is reserved, if the cost/price is determined fair and reasonable for the

One (1) original and five (5) copies of the proposal shall be submitted no later than July 25, 2011 to:

Marianas Public Land Trust 1313 Anatahan Drive, Capital Hill P.O. Box 501089 Saipan, MP 96950

The contract for audit will be awarded by August 31, 2011 and the audit work can commence on November 15, 2011 and 2012. The final audit reports shall be completed and delivered by January 31, 2011 and 2012

Inquires may be directed to Barbara Reves. Office Manager at telephone number (670) 322-4401/4402 or by email at



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS **CUC-RFP-11-028 SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC GENERATION**

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced Independent Power Producers (IPP), to supply electrical energy generated from commercially proven Solar Photovoltaic System (SPS) for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

CUC seeks responses from qualified developers from which the CUC intends to select one, or more, respondent(s) to negotiate Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) and install generation SPS facilities that best

The Scope of Services requested in the Request for Proposal shall include, but not be limited to, securing sites, all permits and approvals from governing agencies, and providing all labor, services and equipment necessary to design, procure, install, construct, test, commission, monitor, operate, and maintain fully operational SPS Generating Facilities. Selected IPP(s) will be responsible for operating and maintaining all facets of the Generating Facility (ies) and for generating the required output as described in the Request for Proposal.

The Scope-of-Services will be e-mailed upon request, to all interested Offeror, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working hours (7:30 AM to 4:00 PM), Monday thru Friday, except government observed holidavs.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be held on May 16, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST), at CUC Power Plant No. 1 Administration Building, Lower Base Industrial Park, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

One (1) original and Six (6) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-11-028 "Solar Photovoltaic Generation" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than <u>September 29.</u> **2011 at 10:00 AM** (ChST). A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address msablan@cucgov.net and Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika muna@cucqov.net or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional offers will not

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 14. 2011 to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address msablan@cucgov.net; Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika_muna@cucgov.net; and Mr. Wallon Young, Deputy Director, Power Generation/Distribution, via address email.wallon59@vahoo.com, CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement &

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

> ABE UTU MALAE Executive Director

UOG Western Pacific Coral Reef Institute scholarships available

The Western Pacific Coral Reef Institute scholarships are available to resident students of Micronesia (Guam, CNMI, RMI, Palau, and FSM) studying biology or environmental science at the University of Guam.

WPCRI anticipates funding three awards in the amount of \$4,288 for undergraduates and \$5,376 for graduates to cover the cost of tuition, fees, and books for full time attendance during the Fall Semester 2011. The application can be downloaded from www.uog.edu/ wpcri. The deadline to apply is Aug. 12, 2011, at 5pm. Applications must be submitted to the UOG Financial Aid Office located in the Field House.

This scholarship opportunity supports the overall mission of WPCRI, which is to build capacity for the better management of coral reefs in the region. The institute fosters collaboration between researchers, managers and stakeholders throughout the Micronesian region in addressing the documented losses of coral reefs and related resources in the Pacific Islands and worldwide Students studying under this program will be given the opportunity to participate in ongoing coral reef management activities.

This program is part of a cooperative agreement between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Center for Sponsored Coastal Ocean uguam.uog.edu. (PR)

Research and the University of Guam to build regional capacity in the natural sciences field of study related to protecting and preserving Micronesia's coral reefs.

WPCRI is under the purview of the UOG Center for Island Sustainability and is guided by a Management Committee involving representatives from the University of Guam, and government, academic, and nongovernment institutions from Guam and the Micronesian region. For more information on WPCRI, visit our website at www.uog.edu/wpcri or contact Edwin Reyes, WPCRI program manager, at (671) 735-2173 or via email at edwinreyes@

Alcohol license renewal now being accepted

The Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control Division is reminding all licensed business establishments that applications for Alcoholic Beverage Control license renewals are now being accepted.

Application forms may be obtained at the Department of Commerce located at the Donni Hill Complex, Capitol Hill Road, Pohnpei Street. All licensed businesses on Rota and Tinian may pick up application forms from the resident department head at the Department of Commerce on Rota and Tinian. Application forms are also available online and may be downloaded at www.commerce.gov.mp.

The deadline for filing of renewal applications, including payment of fees, is on June 30,

All licensees whose renewal fees remain unpaid as of June 30, 2011, will automatically be suspended. Licenses that remain suspended as of July 31, 2011, due to unpaid renewal fees, will automatically be revoked and the Commerce secretary shall not issue a renewal license. If a license still remains revoked as of July 31, 2011, a new application must be submitted for consideration.

Application forms are available online at www.commerce. gov.mp or from the Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control Division anytime between 8:30am and 4:30pm, Monday to Friday except austerity Fridays, weekends, and legal holidays.

For more information, call the ABTC Division at 664-3065. **(PR)**



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-11-036

GASIFICATION OR WASTE TO ENERGY GENERATION

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced Independent Power Producers (IPP), to supply electrical energy or synthetic diesel - produced from commercially proven Waste to Energy (WTE) or Gasification systems, for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

CUC seeks responses from qualified developers from which the CUC intends to select one respondent to negotiate Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) and install Gasification or Waste to Energy generation facilities that best fit the CUC's requirements. Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) will be the feedstock.

The Scope of Services requested in the Request for Proposal shall include, but not be limited to, securing sites, all permits and approvals from governing agencies, and providing all labor, services and equipment necessary to design, procure, install, construct, test, commission, monitor, operate, and maintain fully operational Gasification or Waste to Energy Generating Facilities. Selected IPP(s) will be responsible for operating and maintaining all facets of the Generating Facility (ies) and for generating the required output as described in the Request for Proposal.

The RFP package and Scope-of-Service will be e-mailed to all interested Offeror, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, in the amount of \$ 200.00 for one set; by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be held on <u>June 21, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)</u>, at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

One (1) original and Six (6) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-11-036" Gasification or Waste to Energy Generation" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than August 30, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST). A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address msablan@cucgov.net and Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika muna@cucgov.net or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered. Late submissions will not be considered.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **July 19, 2011** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address msablan@cucgov.net; Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika_muna@cucgov.net; and Mr. Wallon Young, Deputy Director, Power Generation/Distribution, via email address wallon59@yahoo.com. CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

4 Saipan beach sites red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged the DPW Channel Bridge, Smiling Cove Marina, the beach north of American Memorial Park, and the CK District 2 drainage and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from these locations had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 38 locations on Saipan coast on Wednesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)

Red Cross general membership meeting set

The NMI Chapter of the American Red Cross will have its general membership meeting next Wednesday, June 8, at 5pm. All Red Cross volunteers, donors, or those interested in learning more about the Red Cross are welcome. The meeting will be held at the Chapter office on Airport Road. Elections will be held for board members and an overview of activities will be discussed. Refreshments will be served. (ARC)

Public hearings on Saipan casino bill

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation's committees on Judiciary and Government Operation and Ways and Means will be conducting public hearings for House Local Bills 17-44, or the Saipan and Northern Islands Casino Control Act of 2011 at the following locations:

■ Monday, June 6, Tanapag El-

ementary School, 6pm

- Wednesday, June 8, Dandan Elementary School, 6pm
- Friday, June 19, Kagman Elementary School, 6pm
- Monday, June 13, Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe, 6pm

For copies of HLB 17-44 visit www. cnmileg.gov.mp. Submit written comments three days prior to the public hearing. Contact the offices of Rep. Joseph M. Palacios (664-8830; rep.palaciosj@cnmileg.gov.mp) or Rep. Ray M. Yumul (664-8826; rayyumul@saipan.com) for further information. (PR)

MHS Class of 1991 reunion meeting today

The Marianas High School Class of 1991 will be having its 20th reunion. Class members will be meeting today, June 3, 2011, at the 13 Fishermen's Pavilion (2nd Pavilion) on Beach Road at 6pm to plan for the reunion. *(PR)*

Kitten needs a home

PAWS has a sweet little male kitten—about 2 to 3 months old—who needs a home. He has been neutered and is healthy. He is waiting for someone to come adopt him at the Paradise Island Animal Hospital. Check out his picture on our Facebook page or on the PAWS website, www.paws-saipan.org. (PR)

OES PTSA meeting on Tuesday

The PTSA officers of Oleai Elementary School would like to inform the parents and guardians of OES students that there will be a PTSA meeting on Tuesday, June 7, at 6pm in the school cafeteria. Everyone is encouraged to attend. (*PR*)

DEQ sets Obyan Beach cleanup

The Division of Environmental Quality's cleanup brigade will be picking up trash at Obyan Beach on Saturday,

June 4, 2011, starting at 8am. Volunteers will split into groups and clean east and west until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed. If you would like to volunteer, meet the

DEQ representative at the DEQ parking lot at 8am.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a bri-

gade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a green brigade t-shirt. For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500/1. (DEQ)

Photo seminar

Location: Marianasliving.com Office

Saturday, June 28th

2:00-4:00PM

\$25.00

Registration at 12:30

Call for directions: 285-4335



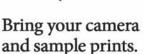
Contact Del for registration del@delbenson.com

· Learn natural light principles.

How to care and handle camera. Basic composition.

How to make greeting cards.

Basic camera to photoshop.
 Let Del know ASAP and



reserve your seat.





Mount Carmel School

Post Office Box 500006, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6184/234-7188 • Fax No. (670) 235-4751
Email: mtcarmel@pticom.com • Web: http://www.mtcarmel-edu.net

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT School Year 2011-2012

Position	Need	Level	Salary	Qualifications	Closing Date
Classroom Teachers		VI-VII	\$18,000 to	Grad. from an accredited	June 15, 2011
		(01-05)	\$20,866.93	college or university with	
				B.A-Education or Related	
* Elementary (1st - 3rd Grades)	01				
* Elementary (4th - 6th Grade)	01				
* Jr High & High School Science (Biology, Chemistry,	01				
Earth Science, Environmental Science, Adv. Biology)					
* Jr. High & High School Math (Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry,	01				
Pre-Calculus//Trigonometry, elective class)					
* Religion & Foreign Language (Spanish I & II, Theology I & II)	01				
* Physical & Health Education and Science (PE I, PE II, Jr. High PE,	01				
Grade School PE, General Science and elective class)					
* Computer & Digital Arts (Grade School Computer,	01				
Jr. High Computer, High School Computer & Digital Arts)					
School Principal	01	X (01)	\$32,000.00	B.A. Degree	June 15, 2011
Building Maintenance	1	I-III	\$10,000 to	High School or Equivalent	June 15, 2011
		(01-05)	\$13,911.29	to Bachelor's Degree or	
		` ′		Equivalent from an accredited	
				college or university	

Interested applicants may obtain a detailed job description with qualification requirements and application forms at Mount Carmel School Business Office from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Application forms can also be downloaded from the school's website at http://www.mtcarmel-edu.net. Required documents must be attached to completed application forms (1) official copy of diploma/degree or Official transcripts; (2) FBI clearance (only required after an offer for employment is made or an employment contract is signed; (3) police clearance (from jurisdiction or residence within the last 3 months); (4) resume, and teaching certificate. Completed applications and required documents may be submitted to Mount Carmel School, ATTN: Margaret C. DelaCruz, President, P.O. Box 500006, Saipan MP 96950. Inquiries can be made by calling 235-1251 or 235-3187. Mount Carmel School is an equal opportunity employer.

Business

Ken Corp. formalizes purchase of PIC Saipan

Ken Corp. said its acquisition popular hotel and resort in Boutiki outlets in Guam and of Pacific Island Club Saipan last June 1 shows its continued commitment to the Marianas and confidence in the region's tourism industry.

P.H.R. Ken Asset Management Inc. president Hayato Yoshino said the sale includes the management and sales and marketing contracts for both the PIC Saipan and PIC Guam (PIC Guam) from InterPacific Group Limited.

Saipan by acquiring all of the stocks of the holding company that owns the hotel. Ken Corp.'s affiliate Guam and Guam, Inc. already owned the PIC Guam, but obtained management control of the hotel through this transaction, giving Ken Corp. complete ownership and management authority over the PIC properties in Guam and Saipan," said Yoshino.

The sale also includes Ken "Ken Corp. purchased the Corp.'s acquisition of the two

Saipan.

Effective June 1, Kem Yanagisawa and Hiroki Sugie were named as general managers for the PIC Guam and PIC Saipan, respectively.

Yanagisawa is the president of Guam and Guam Inc., owner of PIC Guam, and has over 10 years of significant experience in real estate and the hospitality industry.

Sugie previously served as the general manager of Aqua Resort Club and brings over 10 years of hotel management experience to his new position

with PIC Saipan.

Ken Corp. is a Tokyo-based real estate development company that owns many other hotel properties in Guam and Saipan through its affiliates and sub-

sidiaries. Hyatt Regency Guam, Hilton Guam Resort & Spa, Sheraton Laguna Guam Resort, Hotel Nikko Guam, and the Aqua Resort Club on Saipan are all Ken group properties. (PR)

Job gains help states narrow budget gaps

WASHINGTON (AP)—The best hiring stretch in five years is helping governors and legislators narrow state budget gaps after two of the toughest years in decades, according to a report to be released Thursday.

The National Governors Association and National Association of State Budget Officers say tax revenue will increase 2.1 percent to \$655.6 billion in the next budget year, which for most states begins on July 1. That would follow a projected 5.9 percent increase for the 2011 budget year.

A big reason for the gains is that job growth is providing states with more income tax revenue, which accounts for 40 percent of state revenue. Companies have added 1.7 million jobs in the past year. More than 750,000 of those jobs were added in February, March and April. Many states are also raising tax rates and fees.

Tax revenues had plunged in budget years 2009 and 2010, the first back-to-back decline on records dating back to the 1970s.

The recession sent unemployment soaring, cutting into income and sales tax receipts.

The gains won't come close to ending budget crises for many states. The report says 33 states are facing a total budget gap of \$75.1 billion in budget year 2012, though that is better than in previous years. The gaps are partly a result of increased demands on state budgets, particularly from Medicaid, which accounts for about 22 percent of state spending. Medicaid enrollment grew 8.1 percent last year.

"The bottom line is we're recovering, but we're not fully recovered," said Scott Pattison, executive director of NASBO.

Still, this year represents "the beginning of a turning point in state fiscal conditions," the report says.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021. 233-Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp



This notice is to inform the public of a planned/potential reprogramming of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the projects listed below in the order of the least to the most progressive and ready project in an effort to meet CDBG timeliness requirements. The NMHC plans to utilize CDBG funds for the acquisition of land/property potentially located in Saipan, Tinian, or Rota for schools and/or affordable housing.

From the Least to the Most Progressive Project	Program Year	Activity Name	Activity Type	Reprogram From (Amount)
A.	2009	Marpo Heights Basketball Court	Public Facilities	\$ 150,000.00
В.	2009	Carolinas Heights Basketball Court	Public Facilities	\$ 150,000.00
C.	2008/2009	Purchase of Life Saving and Fire	Fire Station/Equipment	\$ 222,685.00
		Protection Equipment		
D.	2008/2009	Rehabilitation of (5) Fire Stations on	Public Facilities	\$ 823,090.00
		Saipan and (1) Fire Station on Rota		
E.	2008/2009	Purchase of (2) Ambulances for the	Public Services	\$ 206,000.00
		Saipan Fire Station		
F.	2010	A&E Design of the Tinian Fire Station	Public Facilities	\$ 150,000.00

The public is invited to provide written and oral comments on the proposed reprogramming. Written comments will be accepted no later than 4:30 p.m., July 4, 2011 at the main office in Garapan, Post Office Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950. Oral comments may be relayed to Jeannie P. Mafnas at telephone number (670) 234-7670, 6866, 7689, or 9447. Persons with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations to submit comments may also contact Jeannie P. Mafnas at the telephone numbers above for assistance.

Marcie M. Tomokane

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"





COASTAL RESOURCES

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Coastal Resources Management Caller Box 10007, Springs Plaza, Middle Road, Saipan, MP 96950 Website: www.crm.gov.mp

Tel. (670) 664-8300 • Fax (670) 664-8315

June 03, 2011

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE Application Received	APPLICATION PROJECT Description	LOCATION	ТҮРЕ	STATUS
1. RMIC	05/10/2011 SMS-2011-X-030	QUARRY OPERATION	AS MATIUS	MAJOR SITING	CERTIFIED COMPLETE (05/26/2011)
2. CUC	05/12/2011 SPIm-2011-X-031	60X60 CONCRETE SLAB	LOWER BASE	PORTS & INDUSTRIAL APC	APPROVED (5/19/2011)*
3. NORMAN TENRIO	5/17/2011 SPIm-2011-X-032	DRY DOCK	CHARLIE DOCK	PORTS & INDSUTRIAL APC	APPROVED (5/18/2011)*
4. GOOD DAY COORDINATING	5/18/2011 SSm-2011-X-033	PHOTOGRAPHIC ACTIVITIES	SHORELINE AREAS	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED (5/23/2011)*
5. KUENTAI ORG.	5/18/2011 SSm-2011-X-034	ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH	SHORELINE AREAS	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED (06/01/2011)*
6. PELLY BOAT CHARTERS, INC.	5/19/2011 SPIm-2011-X-035	DRY DOCK	DELTA PLANE RAMP	PORTS & INDUSTRIAL APC	APPROVED (05/19/2011)*
7. TOYA CORP.	5/23/2011 SPIm-2011-X-36	DRY DOCK	SOUTH SEA PLANE RAMP	PORTS & INDUSTRIAL APC	APPROVED (05/24/2011)*
8. E.P.A	5/27/2011 SPIm-2011-X-37	TRENCHING & EXCAVATION PROJECT	LOWER BASE	PORTS & INDUSTRIAL APC	UNDER REVIEW
9. ALEX VEKHOR	5/25/2011 SSm-2009-X-026	RESIDENTIAL HOUSE (AMENDMENT 2011)	CHALAN LAULAU	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED (6/01/2011)*

Publication of the above list is in accordance with CRM Regulations, which require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*)

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the CRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the CRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APC's) and proposed amended major sitings. Public hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local CRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a CRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the CRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the CRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the CRM Regulations.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil falls below \$100 after surprise US supply jump

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices fell below \$100 a barrel Thursday in Asia after a report showed an unexpected jump in U.S. crude supplies, suggesting demand is weakening. Benchmark oil for July delivery was down 49 cents to \$99.80 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract lost \$2.41 to settle at \$100.29 on Wednesday. In London, Brent crude for July delivery was down 34 cents to \$114.19 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange.

Merkel backs Lagarde to be IMF chief

SINGAPORE (AP)—German Chancellor Angela Merkel says she supports French Finance Minister Christine Lagarde to be the next head of the International Monetary Fund. Merkel said in a speech in Singapore on Thursday that Lagarde was the "ideal embodiment" of the economic and political experience necessary to lead the IMF. Merkel said developing countries should take an "unbiased look" at Lagarde's candidacy to replace Dominique Strauss-Kahn, who was arrested last month in New York on rape charges.

White House promotes auto bailouts, cites paybacks

WASHINGTON (AP)—Taxpayers will lose about \$14 billion in the government's \$80 billion bailout of Chrysler and GM, the White House said Wednesday, portraying the outcome as good news since the losses are far lower than originally anticipated. Seizing on the figures, the Obama administration took credit for the resurgence of the U.S. auto industry, assuring taxpayers that the government's bailout of Chrysler and GM was an investment worth making.

BEFORE THE COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC UTLITIES COMMISSION

NOTICE OF SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission will conduct a special business meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Monday June 6, 2011 at the NMIRF [Retirement Fund] Conference Room on Capitol Hill to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome. Reports and other documents relevant to the agenda will be available at the meeting for public inspection. Questions regarding the agenda should be referred to he law office of Robert T. Torres, Esq. Plata Drive [Whispering Palms] Chalan Kiya – 670-234-7859/5750.

AGENDA

- 1. Call to order quorum
- 2. Approval of minutes of the April 15, 2011 meeting
- 3. Docket 09-1 CUC Electric Division. Consideration of stipulation between CUC and Georgetown regarding the proposed electric base rate increase in furtherance of proceedings conducted during the April 2011 regulatory session.
- 4. Administrative business:
 - Commission authorization to conduct business
- 5. Other business

SAIPAN TRIBUNE FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 2011 **21**



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS **CUC-RFP-11-010**

Supply of Utility Billing, Financial and Payroll Computer System

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from utility billing software development firms, for the Purchase of Utility Billing Software and preventative maintenance tracking software for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The work includes a needs assessment; training; project management; data conversion; and application. Deliverables may include a quotation for equipment to support the project and a performance report.

The bid package & specification will be e-mailed upon request, to all interested offeror, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be held on June 03, 2011 at 11:00 AM (ChST), at CUC Main Conference Room No. 10, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-11-010, Supply of Utility Billing, Financial and Payroll Computer System" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than June 16, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST). A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address msablan@cucgov.net and Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika_muna@cucgov.net or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 06, 2011 to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address msablan@cucgov.net: Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika_muna@cucgov.net; and Mr. Charles Warren, Chief Financial Officer via email address charles_warren@cucgov.net. CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

> ABE UTU MALAE **Executive Director**



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS **CUC-RFP-11-010**

Supply of Utility Billing, Financial and Payroll Computer System ADDENDUM NO. 1

May 26, 2011

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is issuing the following amendments to CUC-RFP-11-010, Supply of Utility Billing, Financial and Payroll Computer System:

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-11-010, Supply of Utility Billing, Financial and Payroll Computer System" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than July 07, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST). A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address msablan@cucgov.net and Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika_muna@cucgov.net or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be held on June 03, 2011 at 11:00 AM (ChST), at CUC Main Conference Room No. 10, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than June 10, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST) to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address msablan@cucgov.net; Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika muna@cucgov.net; and Mr. Charles Warren, Chief Financial Officer via email address charles warren@cucgov.net. CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

- Scope-of-Work, Page 26, at letter c: "Considering the SO 1 requirements which CUC must meet, an aggressive schedule for the design and execution of the project is required four months after the Notice to Proceed. Does the Proposed schedule meet this requirement?" AMENDED AS FOLLOW: "Considering the SO 1 requirement which CUC must meet, an aggressive schedule for the design and execution of the project is requested."
- Scope-of-Work, Page 5, section 2. Introduction: AMENDED AS FOLLOW: "Systems must be in place and operational by: As soon as possible".
- Appendix C is not required, as price is part of Appendix B. Appendix C stricken from appendices.

ABE UTU MALAE Executive Director





Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-11-037

EXHAUST HEAT RECOVERY PROJECT ORGANIC RANKINE CYCLE (ORC)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced companies or IPPs, to supply electrical energy produced from commercially proven Exhaust Heat Recovery systems (Organic Rankine Cycle), for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation. The heat recovery system will be tied to the exhaust systems on diesel engines at Power Plant No.1 in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

CUC seeks responses from qualified developers from which the CUC intends to select one respondent to negotiate Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) and install Exhaust Heat Recovery systems that best fit the CUC's requirements.

The Scope of Services requested in the Request for Proposal shall include, but not be limited to, any permits

and approvals from governing agencies, and providing all labor, services and equipment necessary to design, procure, install, construct, test, commission, monitor, operate, and maintain fully the Exhaust Heat Recovery Systems.

The RFP package and Scope-of-Service will be e-mailed to all interested Offeror, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, in the amount of \$ 200.00 for one set; by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on govern ment observed holidays.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be held on <u>June 22, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST),</u> at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

One (1) original and Six (6) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-11-037" Exhaust Heat Recovery Project" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than <u>August 18, 2011</u> at 10:00 AM (ChST). A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address msablan@cucgov.net and Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika_muna@cucgov.net or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered. Late submissions will not be considered.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on <u>July 19, 2011</u> to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address msablan@cucgov.net; Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika_muna@cucgov.net; and Mr. Wallon Young, Deputy Director, Power Generation/Distribution, via email address wallon59@yahoo.com. CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE

Nation

Tornadoes barrel through Mass., 4 people dead

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (AP)—Tornadoes Mayor Domenic Sarno, told The Associated Press roared through Massachusetts on Wednesday, as violent winds caused damage in about two dozen communities, ripping off roofs, uprooting trees, scattering debris and leaving at least four dead throughout the state. **Massachusetts tornadoes**

Hartford *

As of 10 p.m.

Eastern Wednesday:

1. Westfield. Mass.

One death reported

Brimfield, Mass

One death reported

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by state officials

Two storm-related deaths reported

2. West Springfield, Mass

4. Springfield, Mass. Severe

Source: AP, National Weather Sevice

damage reported caused by storms

The governor said the death toll was preliminary.

The storm pulverized or sheared off the tops of roofs on Main Street in Springfield, a city of more than 150,000 about 90 miles west of Boston. A mounted video camera captured dramatic footage of a debris-filled funnel as it swept into downtown from the west, then crossed the Connecticut River.

Gov. Deval Patrick declared a state of emergency and called up 1,000 National Guardsmen after the storms, which brought scenes of devastation recently wreaked in the South and Midwest to a part of the country where such violent weather isn't a way of life.

The Rev. Bob Marrone of The First Church of Monson said the storm cleared a view he's never seen across the valley where the town sits.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Face

to face at the White House, GOP

leaders complained to President

Barack Obama on Wednesday

that he had not produced a de-

tailed plan of spending cuts and

accused him of playing politics

over Medicare as the nation ca-

House Speaker John Boehner

said he was ready to negotiate

personally with Obama if that

would hurry things along. The

White House said Obama had

in fact led on the issue and made

clear that he had no intention

of dropping what Democrats

believe is a winning political

reens toward a debt crisis

"I can see the plywood of roofs, and see houses where most of the house is gone," said Marrone, whose church's steeple was knocked down. "The road that runs up in front of my house ... There's so many trees down, it's completely impassable."

he was looking out his City Hall window around 4:30 p.m. when he saw the funnel.

"I could see this massive cloud of debris floating around in a circular, cylindrical fash-

Atlantic

* Providence

ion," he said. At least four people were killed from the storms, Pat-

Sarno said more than 40 people have been admitted to hospitals in Springfield.

"It looked like birds were flying out of the trees and it was rubble," said Martha Vachon of Photography by Duval of Palmer, who was photographing the Minnechaug Regional High School prom in downtown Springfield, which went on as planned.

Around 55,000 customers National Grid, Western Mass. Electric and Unitil were reportedly without power.

One of the tornadoes struck downtown Springfield, the state's third-largest city, in the afternoon, frightening workers and residents.

Margaret Alexander, 40, of Springfield, said she found sanctuary in a closet in her apartment during the tornado. After the storm

passed she went outside and headed to the Mass Mutual Center on the advice of neighbors.

She and 15 family members—a sister, daughter, two grand-daughters and the family dog Sasha in a crate—were at the cavernous makeshift emergency shelter. "I'm just happy to be with my fam-Thomas Walsh, a spokesman for Springfield ily and that everyone is safe," Alexander said.

GOP presses Obama on spending Medicare issue: accusing the GOP of trying to destroy the popular health care program for seniors.

> "He doesn't believe that we need to end Medicare as we know it," said press secretary Jay Carney.

Republicans said their plan would save Medicare, not end it, and they in turn accused Obama of failing to present any proposals to preserve Medicare or drive down deficits at all. "Unfortunately what we did not hear from the president is a specific plan," said Rep. Jeb Hensarling, R-Texas, as Republicans commented outside the White House.

Later, Boehner told reporters at the Capitol he hoped deficit-reduction talks could be wrapped up within a month and "the president agreed."

Boehner said private talks being led by Vice President Joe Biden were making "some marginal progress. But at the rate that they're going we'll be right up against the deadline." That was a reference to an Aug. 2 deadline to raise the government's borrowing limit or risk an unprecedented credit default that the White House and even many Republicans say would be disastrous for the U.S. economy.

ACROSS THE NATION

NJ gov. takes state helicopter to son's ballgame

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—New Jersey's pugnacious, budgetcutting Gov. Chris Christiewidely mentioned as a potential Republican candidate for president—is catching grief for taking a state helicopter to his son's high school baseball game. Critics portrayed Christie as a big hypocrite, given his tough talk about runaway spending, and Democrats called for an investigation Wednesday. GOP leaders, meanwhile, were mute, with no one immediately coming to his defense. "Gov. Christie obvious-

ly doesn't include himself in his hollow call for shared sacrifice," Democratic state Assemblyman Paul Moriarty said as he called on the governor to publicly detail his use of state police helicopters and reimburse the taxpayers for any personal or political trips. "Gov. Christie must learn that taxpayers cannot afford his helicopter joyrides."

DOT gave unsafe bus operator extra time to appeal

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—An East Coast discount bus service was near to being shut down by federal transportation authori-

ties before a weekend crash in Virginia killed four people, but it was still operating because it received a 10-day extension to file its appeal, federal transportation authorities said Wednesday. Charlotte, N.C.-based Sky Express Inc. was shut down this week by the U.S. Department of Transportation for violating multiple federal safety regulations and is now prohibited from offering interstate transportation. One of its buses bound for New York City swerved off Interstate 95 early Tuesday, hit an embankment and overturned about 30 miles north of Richmond.

Japan's PM under pressure to resign over crisis

TOKYO (AP)—Prime Minister Naoto Kan, facing a no-confidence vote in parliament, said Thursday he will consider resigning once Japan's efforts to recover from its earthquake and tsunami disaster take firm hold.

Kan told members of his party that he felt responsible for carrying through with leading the recovery. He made the comments ahead of a noconfidence vote in parliament submitted by the opposition that has deeply split his ruling party.

"Once the post-quake reconstruction efforts are settled, I will pass on my responsibility to younger generations," he said. "The nuclear crisis is ongoing, and I will make my utmost efforts to end the crisis and move forward with post-quake reconstruction works."

Kan, who became prime minister just a year ago, has been criticized for delays in construction of temporary housing for evacuees from the March 11 disaster, lack of transparency about evacuation information, and a perceived lack of leadership.

On Wednesday, the largest opposition group, the Liberal Democratic Party, submitted the noconfidence motion along with two smaller opposition groups.

Although his Democratic Party of Japan controls the powerful lower house of parliament, where the no-confidence motion was submitted, dozens of ruling party lawmakers have expressed concern with his leadership, creating a deep rift.

The motion and the ruling party split have further complicated Kan's efforts to unite the government behind his reconstruction plans, which involve a huge injection of funds and possibly tax increases.

The magnitude 9.0 quake and the massive tsunami that followed damaged the Fukushima



Japan's Prime Minister Naoto Kan bows during a meeting of his ruling Democratic Party of Japan members in Parliament in Tokyo on Thursday June 2, 2011.

Dai-ichi nuclear plant, causing the worst nuclear crisis since Chernobyl in 1986, and left 24,000 people are dead or missing. Another 80,000 residents have been forced to evacuate towns contaminated by the radiation-leaking plant.

In the 1990s, Kan was a crusading health minister who stood up to his own bureaucracy to lift the lid on a horrific AIDS scandal, but he was seen as an uninspiring prime minister even before the earthquake with a popularity rating below 20 percent.

He emerged as prime minister last June only after other leaders of his Democratic Party fell. He already is Japan's fifth leader in four years.

Manila protests Chinese construction in Spratlys

MANILA, Philippines (AP)— The Philippines has summoned a Chinese diplomat to protest new construction activities on a reef claimed by Manila in the disputed South China Sea, officials said Wednesday.

Territorial spats in the Spratly Islands involving China and several Southeast Asian nations have recently intensified, heightening tension at a time when China's neighbors have expressed concern over its rapid military buildup.

The Philippine military has reported that a Chinese surveillance vessel and navy ships were seen unloading building materials and erecting posts in the vicinity of Iroquois Reef and Amy Douglas Bank—an uninhabited undersea hill claimed by (230 kilometers) from southwestern Palawan province.

It is part of the Spratlys but well within the Philippines' 200-mile exclusive economic zone, the Philippine Foreign Affairs Department said.

Foreign Secretary Alberto del Rosario said any new construction by China in the area "is a clear violation" of a 2002 accord that China signed with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which includes the Philippines. It calls for countries to exercise restraint in the disputed waters.

Chinese Charge d'Affaires Bai Tian was summoned Tuesday for talks in which Philippine officials conveyed "serious concerns" over China's recent actions and sought clarification the Philippines about 125 miles of them, the Foreign Affairs Denied sending the aircraft.

partment said in a statement.

Chinese Embassy officials did not immediately return calls seeking comment but China has consistently claimed sovereignty over the entire South China Sea.

Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin told reporters Wednesday that the Philippine military is ready to defend the country but "we're not in the position to confront China that is a rising power in Asia."

In March, the Philippines accused two Chinese patrol boats of harassing a Philippine oil exploration ship near Palawan. Last month, the Philippine air force reported that two unidentified foreign fighter jets had flown near a Spratly island occupied by Filipino troops but China de-

ASIAN BRIEFS

Police: 23 Pakistani troops die in border attack

PESHAWAR,

(AP)—Police say militants from Afghanistan have killed at least 23 Pakistani security troops in a clash that is still going on a day after the incursion. The attack began Wednesday in Shaltalo town in Upper Dir district, after some 200 militants crossed the leaky border. Police official Johar Khan says three security forces have also

Pakistan

been wounded. Khan said on Thursday that the militants are believed to have suffered significant casualties as well.

Philippines orders ban on tainted **Taiwanese drinks**

MANILA, Philippines (AP)— Philippine health officials have banned the sale and importation of Taiwanese beverages believed to contain a chemical that is harmful to male reproductive organs. Food and Drug

Administration spokeswoman Joyce Cirunay said Wednesday that sports drinks, juices, soft drinks, teas, jams and jellies that are on a list of Taiwanese products possibly tainted with DEHP should be removed from stores and supermarkets nationwide. Taiwanese authorities have said several companies illegally added DEHP, which is used in the manufacture of plastics, to beverages and health supplements and have ordered the products pulled from store shelves there.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 2011 **23**

World



Burning tyres left by anti-government protestors as they block the road during clashes with Yemeni security forces in Taiz, Yemen, Tuesday, May 31, 2011.

41 killed in deadly Yemen street battles

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—Street battles between Yemeni government forces and armed tribesmen killed dozens of people Wednesday in this country teetering on the brink of civil war, forcing residents to cower in basements or brave gunfire to fetch bread and water.

Nearly four months of mass protests calling for President Ali Abdullah Saleh's ouster have exacerbated already dire poverty, shuttering businesses and forcing up prices of essential goods. It's a trend that does not bode well for long-term stability in this gun-ridden corner of the Arabian Peninsula, home to an active al-Qaida branch and other armed Islamist groups.

Yemen's mainly peaceful protests gave way to fighting last week between Saleh's security forces and fighters loyal to the head of Yemen's most powerful tribal coalition, Sheik Sadeq al-Ahmar. That was the tipping point that pushed the anti-government uprising toward civil war.

At least 41 people were killed Wednesday as clashes spread to new quarters of the city.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said Saleh's refusal to step down was prolonging the crisis.

"We cannot expect this conflict to end unless President Saleh and his government move out of the way to permit the opposition and civil society to begin a transition to political and economic reform," she told reporters in Washington.

President Barack Obama's Homeland Security and Coun-

terterrorism adviser John Brennan was to travel to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates this week for talks on Yemen.

Fighting in the capital raged from early morning though midday, sending the crackle of gunfire and the booms of artillery strikes across the city. The clashes spread Wednesday from the Hassaba neighborhood where tribesmen have seized more than a dozen government buildings, to new areas.

The clashes forced Talal Hazza to crowd into a neighbor's basement with 20 others, half of them children.

"We are suffering and living through trying days," Hazza told The Associated Press. "It wears you out because the shells fall on us like rain, especially at night."

Car explodes in Libyan rebel capital, no one hurt

BENGHAZI, Libya (AP)—A car exploded Wednesday in front of a hotel where foreign diplomats and journalists stay while visiting Benghazi, a rare attack in the Libyan rebels' de facto capital.

Jalal el-Gallal, a rebel spokesman, said the blast in the parking lot of the Tibesti Hotel in central Benghazi caused no injuries or deaths. The burning car sent plumes of black smoke into the air.

"It's a cowardly act," he said, adding that rebels assume it was carried out by supporters of Libyan ruler Moammar Gadhafi.

The regime, which has suffered a series of diplomatic

setbacks in recent weeks, suffered another blow Wednesday when Gadhafi's oil minister appeared in Rome and confirmed he had defected.

On Thursday, at least three NATO strikes hit targets in the Libyan capital of Tripoli. It was not immediately clear what was targeted.

Opponents of the Gadhafi regime rose up against the Libyan dictator in mid-February, and have wrested control of the eastern half of the north African country. The rebels have set up their de facto capital in Benghazi, Libya's second largest city, and many Western and Arab diplomats who travel there

to meet with rebel leaders stay at the Tibesti Hotel. The rebels insist Gadhafi must relinquish control of the government and

leave the country with his sons. The explosion, which rebel spokesman Mahmoud Shamman said was caused a hand grenade tossed under a car in the hotel parking lot, was the first blast of this magnitude in Benghazi since NATO started its bombing campaign in mid-March and helped drive government troops from the city's gates. Despite months of fierce fighting between rebel forces and Gadhafi's military, Benghazi has been for the most part calm.

Prostitution latest target of Rio's Olympic change

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)— Cris touches up her lipstick in the bar's dingy mirror, getting ready to work the rush hour in Vila Mimosa, Rio's bustling working-class prostitution zone.

As dusk descends, bassheavy music rattles metal tables on the sidewalk outside the bar, and shirtless men fire up smoky makeshift grills next to coolers of beer. Women in little more than thong bikinis or lingerie navigate the cobblestone streets, teetering on stiletto platform heels. Leaning against doorways and out of windows, they wait for clients, eyes glazed with boredom.

The area is a beloved institution or a blight, depending on whom is asked.

But like so much of this city that officials have deemed marginal, it faces the prospect of being torn down in the name of progress as Rio revamps crumbling infrastructure and

polishes its image prior to the 2014 World Cup and the 2016 Olympics.

Spelling the possible demise of Vila Mimosa is a 317-mile (510-kilometer), high-speed train the government wants to build to link Rio to the country's financial capital, Sao Paulo. The \$22 billion project was promised in Brazil's Olympic proposal, and the government is expected to open bidding to prospective builders July 29.

Off the Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Ohio school graduating triplets, 10 sets of twins

CANFIELD, Ohio (AP)—The graduating class at an Ohio high school features a multitude of multiples: 10 sets of twins and one set of triplets. They make up 8 percent of the 282 seniors receiving their diplomas from Canfield High School on June 12. Principal John Tullio tells The Vindicator of Youngstown the 23 students from multiple births all have come up from kindergarten in the Canfield school district, about 60 miles southeast of Cleveland. Some will attend college with their siblings. Anthony Ferraro tells the newspaper it would be a big deal to separate from twin Jesse, who calls his brother "a permanent friend." Alex and Christian Syrianoudis are the only set of twins who are identical, and they are splitting up for college.

Bridge chicks: NYC hatches 9 fuzzy baby falcons

NEW YORK (AP)—Where do YOU go for a little peace and quiet? Three peregrine falcon moms have found New York City bridges to be the perfect roost for raising a family. Nine fuzzy, white and chubby chicks have recently hatched at the Verrazano-Narrows, Marine Parkway and Throgs Neck bridges. Maintenance Superintendent Carlton Cyrus says workers take care not to disturb the birds during nesting season. As he puts it: "We just give them some peace and quiet."

Colo. balloon boy parents say they'll sell balloon

FORT COLLINS, Colo. (AP)—The former Colorado couple that told authorities their son floated away in a helium balloon have made a video saying they'll auction off the inflatable to raise money for Japanese earthquake and tsunami relief. TMZ.com posted the video in which Richard and Mayumi Heene say they'll work with California lawyer Perry Rausher on the auction. Rausher confirmed to the Coloradoan he is working with the Heenes. The Heenes' son wasn't inside the balloon when it floated away in 2009. Mayumi Heene served 20 days in jail for filing a false report. Richard Heene served 30 days in jail for a felony count of attempting to influence a public servant. Terms of their probation say they can't profit from their story until 2013.

Mallard duck nesting in Maine Home Depot garden

BANGOR, Maine (AP)—A mallard duck is sitting on seven eggs in a nest in the lawn and garden section of a Home Depot store in Bangor, Maine. The duck is surrounded by hostas, impatiens and potting mix. The nest is protected by yellow tape

and a sign that tells customers "Please do not disturb the duck." Home Depot's Brenda Hatch, who works in the lawn and garden section, feeds and waters the duck every day. The duck showed up last year too, and employees put her in a box and relocated her and her eggs. But she returned about three weeks ago. The Bangor Daily News says the duck flies off every day, but returns within an hour. Experts say the eggs should be about ready to hatch.

Luck of the draw to determine Pa. primary race

BAINBRIDGE, Pa. (AP)—The luck of the draw is going to settle one central Pennsylvania election. Incumbent Gina Mariani and challenger George Rhoads finished in a tie in the Conroy Township supervisor Republican primary. Mariani and Rhoads will each pick a numbered ball out of a basket to settle the race on Friday. Lowest number wins. Lancaster County election officials tell WGAL-TV such a scenario is unusual. Mariani says she's surprised there isn't a runoff instead. Rhoads says the idea of casting lots seems odd to him, but he isn't sure how else to pick a winner.

Severed horse head found in Pa. city alley

WASHINGTON, Pa. (AP)—Someone left a severed horse head in a southwestern Pennsylvania city. Officials in Washington, Pa., say the head was found Monday in an alley in a densely populated neighborhood. Councilman Matt Staniszewski says the decomposing head had been reduced to mostly bone but called the smell "unbearable." Officials removed the remains

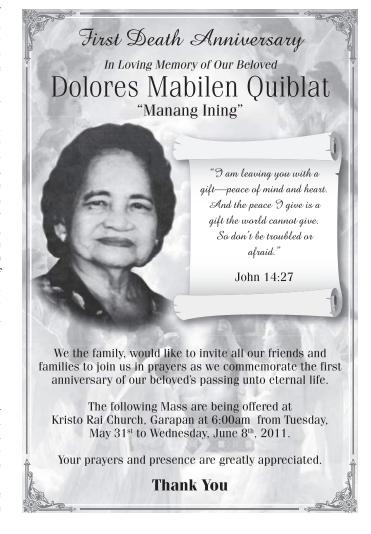
and disposed of them. Police are investigating.

Rats found on Qantas plane just before takeoff

SYDNEY (AP)—A flight crew checking the cabin of a Qantas plane before takeoff found rats in a compartment holding medical equipment, grounding the plane for more than a day, a spokeswoman said Thursday. Crews did a visual check of the plane Tuesday afternoon and found no more rats or any damage. The rodents had been in a cabinet holding a defibrillator. The plane returned to service Thursday morning. Passengers had not yet boarded the Sydneyto-Brisbane flight and were instead put on another plane. A Qantas spokeswoman called the incident "very unusual."

Pa. woman to stand trial for pot-laced margarine

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa. (AP)—A Pennsylvania woman will stand trial on charges she fed marijuana-laced margarine to a 12-year-old girl she was baby-sitting, as well as two other children at her home. The 12year-old's mother called Upper Burrell Township police after discovering the drugs in a tub of I Can't Believe It's Not Butter in 22-year-old Stevie Hickey's freezer. The woman tells police Hickey spread the substance on two pieces of toast that Hickey gave to the girl. Police say Hickey told the girl it was "parsley butter" but later acknowledged to police that it was marijuana. The Valley News Dispatch in Tarentum reports Hickey remains free after waiving her right to a preliminary hearing on marijuana possession and child endangerment charges May 10.



Science & Technology

Google says Chinese hackers broke into Gmail

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)— Google Inc. is blaming computer hackers in China for a high-tech ruse that broke into the personal Gmail accounts of several hundred people, including senior U.S. government officials, military personnel and political activists.

The breach announced Wednesday marks the second time in 17 months that Google has publicly identified China as the home base for a scheme aimed at hijacking information stored on Google's vast network of computers.

This round of attacks isn't believed to be tied to a more sophisticated assault originating from China in late 2009 and early last year. That intrusion

trade secrets and triggered a high-profile battle with China's Communist government over online censorship that has made it more difficult for the company to do business in the world's most populous country.

The latest duplicity appeared to rely on so-called "phishing" scams and other underhanded behavior that hackers frequently use to obtain passwords from people and websites that aren't vigilant about protecting the information.

Google credited its own security measures for detecting and disrupting the intrusions. All the victims have been notified and their Gmail accounts secured, according to the company. Mila Parkour,

went after some of Google's a security researcher who helped alert Google to the Gmail breach, said the attacks had been occurring for at least a year before they were finally uncovered.

> "It was persistent and bold," Mila Parkour said of the hacking scheme in a Wednesday email exchange with The Associated Press. Parkour first shared her suspicions about the breach in a Feb. 17 post on her Contagio blog.

> Google wouldn't say what parts of the U.S. government were targeted or whether any confidential information may have been contained in the trespassed Gmail accounts. Besides senior government officials, other people whose Gmail accounts were infiltrated includ-



A family member of a Google worker rides a Google bike at Google headquarters in Mountain View, Calif., Wednesday, June 1, 2011.

ed Chinese political activists, military personnel, journalists and officials in other countries, mainly in South Korea.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security didn't shed any light in its statement on the attacks. "We are working with Google and our federal partners to review the matter, offer analysis of any malicious activity, and develop solutions to mitigate further risk," agency spokesman Chris Ortman said.

Google traced the origin of the attacks to Jinan, China. That's the home city of a military vocational school whose computers were linked to the assault more than a year ago on Google's computer systems, along with those of more than 20 other U.S. companies.

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X-Men: First Class

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James McAvoy, Michael Fassbender Action, Fantasy • PG 13 □

Synopsis

Set in the era before Professor Charles Xavier and Erik Lehnshe became mortal enemies as Professor X and Magneto, respectively director Matthew Vaughn's X-Men: First Class follows the two forme allies as they lead a powerful team of mutants on a mission to save planet from nuclear annihilation. Charles (James McAvoy) and Erik (Michael Fassbender) were just young men when it began to appear as if the world was careening toward destruction.



Oba: The Last Samurai

1:20 4:20 7:20 9:50 Mon thru Thurs

Yutaka Takenouchi, Sean McGowan

Synopsis

The fall of Saipan during WWII is viewed from Japanese and American perspectives in "Oba, the Last Samurai," an engrossing portrait of Capt. Sakae Oba, whose loyalist band continued fighting for four months after hostilities officially ceased. Carefully balancing Oba's guerrilla campaign with a U.S. officer's mission to flush him out, this handsomely mounted pic captures the mindset of Japanese soldiers and civilians coming to terms with an unthinkable defeat.

Jack Black and Angelina Jolie return to lend their voice talents to the Kung Fu Panda franchise with

this second entry from DreamWorks Animation and Paramount Pictures. Jennifer Yuh Nelson directs from a script by Jonathan Aibel and Glenn Berger.



Kung Fu Panda 2

1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30 1:00 4:00 7:00 Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00

Children's Family • Rated PG



Comedy • Rated R

Thor



Friday & Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:35 1:05 4:05 7:05 Sunday Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:05

Chris Hemsworth, Natalie Portman



Pirates of the Caribbean: On Strange Tides

Friday & Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 10:00 1:15 4:15 7:15 Sunday Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:15

 \top

Johnny Depp, Penélope Cruz

Fast Five

Friday & Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:55 1:30 4:30 7:30 Sunday Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:30

Vin Diesel, Paul Walker Action • Rated PG 13

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Surfing the Internet anonymously untold riches if only you will By NOAH MATTHEWS

MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

There are times when you will want to hide your identity online. You may want to prevent a cyber thief from finding out who you really are by learning your IP address, a series of numbers that identifies your computer. In short, your PC broadcasts its IP address, but Surf Anonymous makes you untraceable to all but the most sophisticated hackers.

You may want to visit a website that would otherwise restrict you, and you may want to send anonymous e-mails to Nigerians who offer you send them a few thousand dollars, which you'll never see again. If those descriptions fit your profile, Surf Anonymous for Windows PCs will give you a brand new U.S. IP address. which will make you invisible to most hackers and other miscreants. It does its work by assigning a proxy IP address, one that acts as if it is yours.

Surf Anonymous is free, installs in seconds, offers you an icon on your web browser's tool bar and tells you what IP address you're currently using. You can set the program to change IP addresses every few minutes or just when you call up your browser. And you can turn it all off and get your real IP address back. I wouldn't recommend this program for CIA operatives, but for most surfers it should be adequate.

The free version will give you a proxy address only in the United States. Pay about \$50 for a lifetime license (\$30 for a one-year license), and you'll be able to use IP addresses from foreign lands, including Nigeria. But don't get any ideas about sending out e-mail blasts offering milliondollar windfalls

Surf Anonymous can be downloaded at www.surfanon-

Webcam for first iPad isn't in the picture

By STEVE ALEXANDER STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: Can you tell me if there is an adapter to connect a Web camera to an iPad? If not, is one coming out soon? Maybe should have waited to buy an iPad 2!-Dolores Libera, Rochester, Minn.

ANSWER: Maybe you should have, because the original iPad doesn't have a user-facing camera and lacks a connector opening into which an external webcam could be plugged. It's unclear if this will ever be fixed.

But the iPad 2 has its own user-facing camera, and you can use either the included FaceTime video calling software or web cam apps available on iTunes.

Q: Around Christmas I bought a Windows 7 PC. A few weeks later, the background on my computer's desktop disappeared, leaving me with a black screen. I still see the original pictures for a second when I click on "show desktop" or when I shut down the PC. How can I restore my desktop background?-Larry Clark, Tucson, Ariz.

A: There are a couple of ways to do this. The simplest is to locate the picture you had on your screen and double-click it to open the picture in Windows Photo Viewer. Then right-click the image, and in the drop-down menu select "Set as desktop background." Wait a minute or so for it to appear as your background.

Alternatively, you can right-click on the black screen, and from the resulting menu choose "Per-

sonalize." At the bottom of that menu, click "Desktop background." This should give you a list that includes your previous choice of a desktop background. As you move your cursor over the image, you'll see a box in the upper left corner; check it and, at the bottom of the page, click "Save changes."

Q: When I'm at my cabin in Canada, I have to use a Canadian dial-up service to reach the Internet. This evidently causes some confusion about where I really am.

Sometimes I'm directed to the regular U.S. websites I want to see. Some websites, such as

Best Buy, let me choose whether I get the U.S. or Canadian versions of the Web page. But other websites, such as Google, direct me to the Canadian version of the site, http://www.google. ca/, which sometimes delivers lessdesirable search results, especially if

I'm looking for merchandise.

Getting the U.S. version of Google seems almost impossible. Is there a way I can get the U.S. Google page all the time?—Loren Forsmark, Hastings, Minn.

A: Try using the Web address http://www. google.com/ncr to get to the U.S. site. The "/ncr" in the address magically disappears when you reach the U.S. website.

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@ gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.

Life & Style

Armstrong's lawyers want apology from '60 Minutes'

torneys for Lance Armstrong have demanded an on-air apology from "60 Minutes" after the head of Switzerland's antidoping laboratory denied allegations the seven-time Tour de France winner tested positive for performance-enhancing drugs at the 2001 Tour de Suisse.

In a letter sent Wednesday to CBS News Chairman and "60 Minutes" executive producer Jeff Fager, lawyer Elliot Peters said the May 22 segment about

Actor Billy Bob Thornton's daughter guilty in death

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—The estranged daughter of actor Billy Bob Thornton has been found guilty of aggravated manslaughter of a child in Orlando.

Prosecutors say 32-year-old Amanda Brumfield was convicted Friday. She is expected to be sentenced in July.

She was acquitted of firstdegree murder and aggravated child-abuse charges.

Authorities say Brumfield killed her best friend's daughter during an overnight stay in October 2008.

Brumfield says 1-year-old Olivia Madison Garcia was trying to climb out of a playpen and hit her head. The defense suggested the fall may have aggravated a previous injury, causing her death.

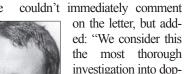
Armstrong was built on a series Tedesco said Wednesday he of falsehoods, and he accused the

reputable CBS show of sloppy journalism.

"In the cold light of morning your story was either extraordinarily shoddy, to the point of being reckless and unprofessional, or a vicious hit-and-run job," Peters wrote. "In

either case, a categorical on-air apology is required."

CBS News spokesman Kevin de France in 2001 and cycling's



Armstrong

ing in the sport of cycling ever done." Former teammate

Tyler Hamilton alleged in the piece that Armstrong talked about using the banned blood-booster EPO to prepare for his third Tour

Last week, the head of Swit-

zerland's anti-doping laboratory, Martial Saugy, denied allegations Armstrong tested positive for performing-enhancing drugs during the 2001 Tour de Suisse.

governing body, the International Cycling Union, helped him hide a

positive test at the Swiss event.

Saugy said his lab did find suspicious levels of EPO in four urine samples from the race Armstrong won, but he didn't know if any belonged to the seven-time Tour de France winner.

Reese Witherspoon to receive MTV Generation Award

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Reese Witherspoon better make some time." room on her trophy shelf.

MTV says Witherspoon will receive its Generation Award at Sunday's MTV Movie Awards.

The 35-year-old Oscar winner is being recognized for her range as an actress and for delighting the MTV audience throughout her career. MTV President Stephen Friedman called Witherspoon "one of complished performers of her set to present the prizes

"Saturday Night Live" star Jason Sudeikis will host Sunday's ceremony at the Gibson Amphitheater, where Ryan Reynolds, Blake Lively, Steve Carell, Shia LaBeouf, Patrick Dempsey, Cam-

the most versatile and ac- Nicki Minaj are among those and Jim Carrey.

Fans voted online for the winners in categories such as best kiss. best villain and best line from a movie. MTV chose Witherspoon, who joins previous Generation Award winners Sandra Bullock, Ben

Stiller, Adam Saneron Diaz, Selena Gomez and dler, Mike Myers, Tom Cruise



Witherspoon

Octomom's fertility doctor has license revoked

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The state medical board has revoked the license of the fertility doctor who helped "Octomom" Nadya Suleman become the mother of 14 children through repeated in vitro treatments, according to a decision made public Wednesday.

The Medical Board of California said it was necessary to revoke Dr. Michael Kamrava's license to protect the public. The revocation takes effect July 1.

The Beverly Hills fertility doctor has acknowledged implanting 12 embryos into Suleman, then 33, prior to the

pregnancy that produced her octuplets. It was six times the norm for a woman her age.

That was a mistake, according to the board, which rejected an earlier recommendation to give Kamrava five years of probation to dole out the harsher punishment.

'Avatar' gets top billing at Seattle museum

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

SEATTLE (AP)—A Seattle music and popular culture museum is banking on fans of the Oscar-winning film "Avatar" to populate a new exhibit on how director James Cameron brought Pandora and its inhabitants to the big screen. The exhibit at the Experience Music Project and Science Fiction Museum and Hall of Fame opens at noon Saturday after a Friday event featuring Cameron, some of the movie actors, and Richie Baneham, who won the Academy Award for best visual effects. Museum associate curator Brooks Peck says the goal is to educate and entertain, but not go so deeply into the "Avatar" world that it resembles an amusement park. It will be the first of its kind to showcase artwork and props from the blockbuster film.

"Camp Rock 2" actor recovering after crash

LOS ANGELES (AP)— "Camp Rock 2" actor Matthew "Mdot" Finley is recovering from a motorcycle accident. Finley's manager, Eric Ortner, said the singer-actor is undergoing surgery Wednesday on his leg at UCLA Medical Center after

he lost control of his motorcycle and plummeted off a cliff last Thursday. Ortner said that Finley suffered multiple injuries to his face, head and legs and was expected to be in the hospital for several weeks. He said Finley hoped to fully recover and return to performing, including a possible stint on ABC's "Dancing with the Stars." Finley played rival Luke Williams in the Disney Channel sequel starring the Jonas Brothers.

Italian police revoke

Snooki's license **ROME** (AP)—Italian police say they have revoked the international driver's license of Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi after the "Jersey Shore" star was in a fender-bender with a police car. Florence road safety coordinator Mario Rondinelli told The Associated Press on Wednesday that two policemen were slightly injured but not hospitalized after the minor traffic accident Monday. The police car was escorting the Jersey Shore vehicle. Rondinelli says no alcohol was involved. He says Snooki's international license was revoked because there were injured parties involved. By law, she must wait a minium of 15 days to get it back. The popular MTV reality show is filming its fourth season in Florence.

Adele postpones 5 tour dates due to laryngitis

NEW YORK (AP)—British singer Adele has postponed five dates on her tour of North America due to laryngitis. Columbia Records said in a statement Monday the 23-year-old Grammy winner was diagnosed last Thursday in Minneapolis, where doctors ordered immediate rest. Her show was canceled and rescheduled for June 22. She performed in Denver on Saturday, but her show in Salt Lake City on Sunday was canceled at the last minute "when her illness worsened." The tour will resume June 4 in San Francisco. Performances in Seattle. Portland, Ore., and Vancouver, British Columbia, were also postponed and will be rescheduled. Adele's new album, "21," has been at the top of the music charts in the U.S.

Grunberg appears in pal JJ Abrams' 'Super 8'

NEW YORK (AP)—Greg Grunberg is revealing that he has a small role in "Super 8," the latest film from his longtime friend J.J. Abrams. Grunberg previously said only that he'd

beg for a part in the film. But he told The Associated Press on Wednesday that people will have to "really, really search to find me" as he portrays a sitcom actor in "Super 8." Grunberg and Abrams have been friends since kindergarten. Grunberg starred in Abrams' home movies growing up and has appeared in most of his professional films and TV shows, including "Felicity," "Alias," "Lost" and "Star Trek." Grunberg says of Abrams: "He calls me his lucky charm." Grunberg stars in the comedy "Love Bites," which premieres on NBC Thursday at 10 p.m. Eastern.

Sales of James Patterson e-books top 3 million

NEW YORK (AP)—James Patterson is an e-book megaseller. The Hachette Book Group announced Wednesday that e-sales for the prolific author of such blockbuster series as "Maximum Ride" have topped 3 million, with 2 million coming just in the last 11 months. Patterson releases several books a year, many of them top sellers. The e-book market has surged in 2011, thanks to the popularity of such devices as Amazon.com's Kindle and Barnes & Noble's Nook.

Teacher is surprised to learn of former student's attraction

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I am a teacher with a dilemma. I have taught for 10 years and connected with thousands of former students. With the Internet and social networking, I am able to keep in touch with many of them. I enjoy knowing what they're doing in their college careers and beyond.

One student I've kept in touch with recently admitted his romantic love for me. "Kyle" is now in his 20s and on his own. As his teacher 10 years



ago, I'd never have dreamed of this happening. What's difficult is I think I reciprocate those feelings. I never expected the man I connect with most to be a former student, but Kyle is an adult and I know him as such.

I'm not sure what to do. I'm aware of my professional boundaries as a teacher and would never cross those lines with a student or minor. What do you do when your former student is an adult, you live in a small town and you're drawn to each other? This could be the love I've been waiting for my entire life. Would it be totally inappropriate if I followed my heart?

WONDERING IN WYOMING

DEAR WONDERING: No. Because Kyle is an adult, and when he was your student there was no flirting (I presume), I see nothing unethical about pursuing the relationship. However, if your romance becomes fodder for gossip—and it very well might—you should be prepared to relocate.

DEAR ABBY: I went to the zoo with my daughter's class as a chaperone. While we were there, I saw several children begin climbing the walls of some of the exhibits. They were not part of the group from our school. I promptly asked the children "nicely" not to climb on the exhibits for fear they would hurt themselves or fall in.

A parent who heard me ask her son to get down began yelling and cursing at me in front of my daughter and the other children. I said, "I'm sorry," and walked on.

I don't feel I did anything wrong. I was trying to warn the boy that what he was doing was dangerous. Did I do the wrong thing? Or should I have talked to a member of the zoo staff about what happened? Please advise what you would do if someone's child did what I witnessed.

VIGILANT PARENT IN OKLAHOMA CITY

DEAR VIGILANT PARENT: Candidly, I probably would have reflexively done exactly what you did-get the child out of harm's way. However, the prudent way to handle a situation like the one you encountered would have been to alert the zoo staff or security personnel so they could handle it.

DEAR ABBY: In our golfing circle there's a single, 47-year-old professional woman with two children. We thought we knew her. Come to find out, she has been involved for the last five years with a married man who has a child.

We're uncomfortable having her around us now. None of us is perfect, but a woman who would take another's man and wreck a home is one thing most women can't stand. What, if anything, should we do?

TEE'D OFF IN ALABAMA

DEAR TEE'D OFF: Before deciding what to do, talk privately with the woman, tell her what you have learned and hear what she has to say about it. After that, you'll know what (or what not) to do.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby-Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

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Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Anderson Cooper, 44; Jason Jones, 44; Deniece Williams, 61; Irma P. Hall, 76

Happy Birthday: Overreacting, coupled with impulsiveness, will lead to negative responses. Settle down and take your time if you want to avoid personal and financial trouble. Protecting your reputation will save you from being left out or overlooked. Let your imagination help you find solutions. Your numbers are 6, 10, 22, 25, 31, 36, 48

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You have to take advantage of everything being offered if you want to get ahead. Communication will be your strong point and versatility and adaptability will lead into something lucrative and enjoyable. Your hard work in the past will pay off now. ❖❖❖❖

37 Envelope

38 Diane or

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't waste time overreacting to a situation you cannot change. You will find a solution to your current problem once you have achieved greater stability, purpose and direction. Be open about the way you feel. 🛇 🗘

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Being creative or innovative with a job you are working on will help to calm your nerves. Don't feel you have to make a change or spend money because someone is pushing you. You have to be comfortable with whatever decision you make. 🛇 😂

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You'll find it difficult to remain calm and to get things done. Constant change will aggravate a situation that is making you feel threatened. Your best recourse is to do what you can for others and prove how valuable you are.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't ask for trouble, especially when dealing with a partner, lover or your job. You may have to answer questions that can jeopardize your position. Honesty will be the only way to deal with the situation you face. 🗪

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You may know what you need to do but actually doing it will not be so easy. Consider the consequences of your actions. Do what you feel is the least confrontational but still allows you to get the results you want. ����

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't be intimidated by someone who professes to know more, do more and have more than you. Look at past records and you will discover that you are as qualified and perhaps even better equipped to take on a challenge. ②

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You need a break that will help you get a different perspective on a situation or job that has engrossed you mentally and physically. A short trip or visiting someone who can shed some light on your situation will help you rethink your strat-

еду. 🗘 🗘 🗘 С SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may have a plan but if you go over budget, you aren't likely to recover as quickly as you think. A partnership will change the way you proceed and help you fulfill a promise you made. Make sure your contribution is adEUGENIA THE LAST WORD

IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): An emotional matter will help you realize what you need to do to keep the peace and please the people in your life who count. A couple of changes at home will make you a hero. Accept responsibility for your actions.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Socializing with friends will lead to an encounter with someone who interests you either personally or financially. Exchanging ideas will lead to a proposal that will help you out of a difficult situation. Make changes at home that will secure your assets. �����

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't get caught in a trap that will make it impossible for you to explore new avenues. An emotional tie to someone who is taking advan-

tage of your generosity is apparent. Stand up for your rights. A partnership is apparent. •• Birthday Baby: You are determined, disciplined

and eager to do what's right. You are open, adaptable and imaginative.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

equate. 🛇 🔾 🔾

6/03

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Difficulty Level ★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday

to Saturday.

Yesterday's Suduku Answer										
9	4	7	1	6	2	3	8	5		
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7	6	3	2	1	4	8	5	9		

	Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer										
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WONDERWORD, By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The lefuwer letters spell the Wonderword.

THE GREEN HORNET

RZKLCRSRETSAMOT YIAALEEEYES©LUM V K E I T I R T C C (S) I P A B A S H D O J R H (A) V P S A T SW L F G G E O © E E K T E R DEEEOTUPRRETMTA NNTNOEIDLLIAC NEDTTMDRMEEECFK NRIRICEOEHCNHAE YREKANEDOHUOAIT BYEMLMEPILRRETE OJAMESALSTBELHE OWALTZIEYEPOPFR KAIDEMYSTERIOUS STHGIFICTIONALS

@ P011 Universal Uclick - www.wonderword.com - Juinitia un Facebuck Battle, Bloodnofsky, Books, Britt, Bruce Lee, Case, Chili, Chou, Crime, Danny, Diaz, Drama. Edit, Faithful, Fictional, Fight, Gondry, Heir, Helmet, James, Jill, Kato, Lenore, Masked, Master. Media, Michael, Mike, Mysterfous, News, Oliver, Perry, Popeye, Racketeers, Reid, Remez, Reporter, Respect, Rogen, Secret, Sentinel. Seth, Superhero, Tupper, Valet, Waltz Yesterday's Answer: Cleopatra

arkEV Training from a colored growing shore or many control for the church \$400 second or functing statistics Abstration, 10.5, who also be for the annual foliable for the control and also account also Annual from a 10 Admit St. Researchy 66, 8408 or 10 Admit St. Researchy 66, 10 Admit from a particular church of Edynamic St. Oct. Admit is supplied, 36, 36, 37

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.





Pastimes By Bill Waterson Ivin and Hobbes 36 FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 2011 Adam@home Minor wins doubles in Aust

WHATZIT Solution: The Big Apple

CLICK IT OR TICKET DAY & NIGHT

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Sablan, other delegates come out

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK By JAYVEE VALLEJERA

hea Minor ended her campaign in

the 2011 Goulburn Valley Junior

Championships in Australia on

a high note after capturing the doubles

crown in the U18 division of the five-day

teamed up with fellow Pacific of mber Amanda Koriniher

swinging as Subscribe to the CNV

Find today's solution in this section

Shaq says on Twitter: 'I'm about to retire'



He was a prolific producer of rebounds and record albums. And nicknames, too, as if at 7-foot-1 and 350 pounds he was too

big for the simple "Shaq" that made him an instantly recognizable, one-name star in all of his endeavors.

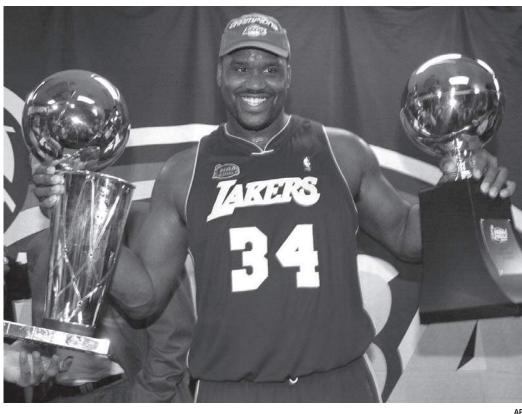
Shaquille O'Neal had more than 28,000 points and almost 4 million Twitter followers. He appeared in six NBA finals, three times as the MVP, and seven feature films, twice in a starring role.

A 15-time All-Star, four-time champion and the 2000 NBA Most Valuable Player, the 39-year-old O'Neal announced his retirement on Twitter on Wednesday after spending most of his 19th season on the Boston Celtics bench, in street clothes because of leg injuries.

Along with a mid-afternoon tweet saying, "im retiring," O'Neal included a link to a 16-second video of him saying, "We did it; 19 years, baby. Thank you very much. That's why I'm telling you first: I'm about to retire. Love you. Talk to you soon."

An inveterate prankster who gave himself a new nickname—or several—in each of his six NBA cities, O'Neal did not notify his latest team, leaving it wondering about his plans. He played just 37 games this season, the first of a two-year deal at the veteran's minimum salary, making just three brief appearances after Feb. 1.

"He's a giant," commissioner David Stern said Wednesday at the NBA finals in Miami. "He's physically imposing; he has an imposing smile. In the game, he imposed his will, and he has



In this June 15, 2001 file photo, Los Angeles Lakers' Shaquille O'Neal holding up the MVP trophy, right, and the championship trophy after the Lakers won their second straight NBA championship in Philadelphia.

done it for quite a long time. It's been a great run, and we're going to miss him greatly. We hope we can find ways to keep him involved in the game."

O'Neal, 39, retires fifth all-time with 28,596 points, 12th with 13,099 rebounds, and a .582 field goal percentage that is second only to Artis Gilmore among players with more than 2,000 baskets. His free throw percentage of .527—well, now is not the time to dwell on that.

"I'm a little bit sad," said Heat president Pat Riley, who also coached O'Neal when he won a title in Miami and watched Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Patrick Ewing and Alonzo Mourning when they retired. "It's been an honor to be part of coaching great, great players. And he will go down as one of the greatest

of all time."

Appropriately, O'Neal's retirement became the No. 1 trending topic on the social networking site he embraced by early evening, and his former teammates and opponents took to Twitter to wish him luck.

"Shaq not only dominated the game of basketball but also dominated off the court w/ his big personality. Hes 1 of the greatest entertainers," Magic Johnson said. "Thank you Shaq for leading the Lakers to 3 titles. We loved every minute of it!"

O'Neal spent three years at Louisiana State and was the big prize when the Orlando Magic won the 1992 draft lottery and selected him first overall. He took them from the lottery to the playoffs in two years, and then led them to the NBA finals in

his third year before they were swept by the Houston Rockets.

O'Neal signed with the Los Angeles Lakers in 1996 and had his greatest success there, winning three titles alongside Kobe Bryant and coach Phil Jackson. But amid tension between O'Neal and Bryant after a loss to the Detroit Pistons in the finals, O'Neal was traded to the Heat in the summer of 2004.

"I often wonder how many they would've won if he stayed," said Johnson, the Lakers Hall of Famer.

Lakers owner Jerry Buss, who decided to break up the tandem and keep Bryant, thanked O'Neal for a "long and amazing career, with a huge impact both on and off the court."

"His contributions were significant to the entire NBA, but he did with and what he meant to the Lakers during his eight years with us," Buss said. "We have three championships that we wouldn't have won without him, and we will forever be grateful for his significant contributions to those teams."

After 3 1/2 years in Miami, a

After 3 1/2 years in Miami, a tenure that included his fourth NBA championship, O'Neal became a veteran for hire, moving to Phoenix and then Cleveland and finally Boston. But he couldn't deliver another title for Steve Nash and Amar'e Stoudemire with the Suns, with Le-Bron James with the Cavaliers, or with the Celtics' Big Three of Kevin Garnett, Paul Pierce and Ray Allen.

At each stop, he endeared himself to the fans and his new teammates with his effervescent smile and playful attitude, including the habit of adopting a new nickname he felt embodied his role with his new team. In Phoenix he was the "Big Shaqtus"; in Boston, the "Big Shamroq."

"What a career for Shaq Diesel!!" James wrote on Twitter. "The most dominating force to ever play the game. Great person to be around as well. Comedy all the time!!"

O'Neal connected with more than 3.8 million followers of his Twitter account, keeping them informed of his "random acts of Shaqness"—like sitting in Harvard Square, pretending to be a statue, or going out in drag on Halloween.

But his off-court persona couldn't disguise the fact he was getting old, and while he showed he could still play with younger opponents, he couldn't manage to stay on the court with them. He missed a week in

we specifically appreciate what he did with and what he meant to the Lakers during his eight years with us," Buss said. "We November with a bruised right knee, a week in December with a calf injury, and another in January with a sore right hip.

He returned for three games—a total of about 34 minutes—before missing the next 27 games with what the team called a sore right leg. Although the injury was originally expected to keep him out just a few games, his absence stretched to more than two months.

He returned to play in one more regular-season game, but lasted just 5 minutes, 29 seconds before reinjuring the leg and limping off the court. He missed Boston's entire first-round series against the New York Knicks and made two appearances against Miami, a total of 12 minutes, and scored two points.

In all, O'Neal averaged just 9.2 points, 4.8 rebounds and 20.3 minutes this season—all career lows.

"I'm glad that he retired. I think it was time," former guard Tim Hardaway said. "He was hurting his legacy. You don't want to see anybody hurt their legacy when they're going out. I think a lot of people are happy he didn't go through that pain of waiting too long. And I think it was tough for everybody to watch Shaq when he was playing hurt like that at the end of this season."

And that left O'Neal in the market for a new nickname.

After announcing his retirement, he asked fans to give him a nickname that befit his retirement. He reported at about 5 p.m. that "The Big 401K" was the leader.

"I know you can do better, though," he said in another video. "I'm here all day. I'm retired."

5-time champ Nadal to face Murray in semis



PARIS (AP)—At last, Rafael Nadal sounded satisfied.

Then again, what could he possibly have complained about Wednesday? The five-time French

Open champion reached the semifinals and improved his career record at Roland Garros to 43-1 with a clean-as-can-be 6-4, 6-1, 7-6 (3) victory over the only man he's ever lost to there, two-time runner-up Robin Soderling.

"Today, I played better. Much better, in my opinion," Nadal said. "It was nothing secret, nothing magic. ... I found a lot of solutions."

After Nadal's previous match, he chided himself for not hitting the ball with conviction and fretted that his level of tennis wasn't good enough to win the tournament a sixth time, which would tie Bjorn Borg's record for the most by a man in history.

Against Soderling, Nadal was at his "King of Clay" best.

He scrambled along the baseline to dig out and get back shots that would be winners against most anyone else. He went from defense to offense in a blink, winning 14 of the first 19 points that lasted at least 10 strokes, according to the AP's tally. He made a hard-to-believe 13 unforced errors total; Soderling made 41. Nadal broke in each of the first two games the 6-foot-4 Soderling served, six times in all.

"He played really good. It's the first match this tournament that he played well all the time," said Toni Nadal, Rafael's uncle and coach. "Well, only in the third set was I a little worried. But it was very good for us today."

On Friday, the top-seeded Nadal will take on No. 4 Andy Murray, who became only the third British man in the last 70 years to reach the French Open semifinals by beating unseeded Juan Ignacio Chela of Argentina 7-6 (2), 7-5, 6-2. Murray's been playing with a torn tendon in his right ankle since twisting it in the third round, and he trailed Chela 4-1, then 5-3, before saving two set points and turning the match around.

"Just a really scrappy match," said Murray, who is 0-3 in Grand Slam finals. "I didn't start particularly well and then got a little bit better, started moving a bit better, towards the end of the first set."

The other men's semifinal is No. 2 Novak Djokovic, who is 41-0 in 2011 and has won 43 consecutive matches overall, against No. 3 Roger Federer, owner of a record 16 Grand Slam titles.

It's the 12th time in the history of the Open era, which began in 1968, that the top four seeded men reached the semifinals at a Grand Slam tournament—and first since the 2006 French Open.

In contrast, none of the top four seeded players will participate in the women's semifinals Thursday, when No. 5 Francesca Schiavone of Italy, the

defending champion, faces No. 11 Marion Bartoli of France, and No. 6 Li Na of China meets No. 7 Maria Sharapova of Russia.

For Sharapova, who had right shoulder surgery in October 2008, it's her first major semifinal in more than three years, and she is bidding to complete a career Grand Slam. She won Wimbledon in 2004, the U.S. Open in 2006, and the Australian Open in 2008, but never has been to a final in Paris.

"I put a lot of work in to be in this stage of the Grand Slams," Sharapova said after beating No. 15 Andrea Petkovic of Germany 6-0, 6-3 Wednesday with her fiance, New Jersey Nets guard Sasha Vujacic, in the stands. "I'm really happy that it's here."

Li, who became the first Chinese player to reach any major final at the Australian Open in January, was a 7-5, 6-2 winner over No. 4 Victoria Azarenka.

"So many people think I'm not so good (on a) clay court," Li said, "but I think now they should change a little bit."

No one ever has doubted Nadal's proficiency on the slow, red surface.

Since 2005, the year he won his first French Open title in his tournament debut, Nadal is 198-8 on clay, including an 81-match unbeaten streak that ended in 2007.

The only blemish on his Roland Garros record remains a fourth-round loss in 2009 to Soderling. But Nadal beat the Swede in last year's final in straight sets and was just as dominant Wednesday.

When Nadal closed a 14-stroke exchange with a run-around forehand winner that caught a line to earn a break point at 1-all in the second set, Soderling shook his head. The next point went 11 strokes as Nadal kept getting the ball back until Soderling sent a forehand wide then raised both arms as if to say, "What do I need to do to win one of these?"

Nadal broke again to get to 4-1, and while the match was all of 74 minutes old, it also was all but over.

"I was able to move very well; even better today than in any other matches in this tournament," Nadal said. "I had the feeling I was really covering the court much better and I was able to run a lot better."

If the Spaniard's bad-mouthing of his own performances earlier in the tournament was meant to fool opponents, Soderling wasn't listening.

"Against the world No. 1, you never expect anyone to play bad," Soderling said. "I mean, it would be pretty stupid."

Murray, for his part, also figures he knows what sort of showing he'll get from Nadal, who leads their career series 10-4.

"Even in practice, he plays well against me," Murray said, "so I don't expect him to play badly on Friday."

Giants edge Cardinals in 11 innings



(AP)—Nate Schierholtz hit

a tying single with two outs in the ninth inning, then got the go-ahead hit in the 11th inning as the San Francisco Giants edged the St. Louis Cardinals 7-5 in the National League on Wednesday.

The game was delayed for 16 minutes with two outs in the bottom of the 11th when large sections of two light standards failed. When play resumed, Brian Wilson needed one pitch to retire the final batter for his 15th save in 17 chances.

Diamondbacks 6, Marlins 5

In Phoenix, Justin Upton's bloop single with two outs in the bottom of the ninth drove in the winning run for Arizona against Florida.

Willie Bloomquist led off the ninth against Clay Hensley (0-2) with an infield single. Hensley struck out one batter then left with an apparent shoulder injury.

ST. LOUIS Reds 4, Brewers 3

In Cincinnati, Jay Bruce and Joey Votto hit two-run homers to lift Cincinnati to a late comeback win against Milwaukee.

Bruce hit his 17th homer in the seventh inning. Votto added a two-run shot in the eighth off Kameron Loe (2-5), who hit the previous batter with two outs to bring up the NL's reigning MVP Votto.

Nationals 2, Phillies 1

In Washington, Lavnce Nix hit a homer and made a game-saving catch, helping Washington edge Philadelphia.

Nationals starter John Lannan (3-5) entered the game 0-10 with a 6.44 ERA against Philadelphia, but pitched into the sixth inning, allowing just one unearned run to record his first victory in eight starts.

Braves 4, Padres 3

In Atlanta, Tommy Hanson went six strong innings on a sweltering night to steer Atlanta past San Diego.

Hanson (6-4) allowed just three hits. Three relievers finished up, with Craig Kimbrel escaping a drive to the wall in the ninth for his 16th save in 20 chances.

Rockies 3, Dodgers O

In Los Angeles, Ubaldo Jimenez pitched a complete game shutout to win for the first time this season, guiding Colorado past Los Angeles.

Jimenez (1-5) struck out seven and walked none for the first time this season. He retired 14 in a row during one stretch.

Astros 3, Cubs 1

In Chicago, Houston completed a three-game road sweep of Chicago.

Brett Myers (2-4) allowed just one run over six innings to take his sixth straight decision against the Cubs. He has a 12-3 record with a 2.12 ERA against them.

Pirates 9, Mets 3

In New York, Kevin Correia became the first eight-game winner in the majors as Pittsburgh downed New York.

Andrew McCutchen made a dazzling catch in deep rightcenter and Correia (8-4) pitched six poised innings to help the Pirates improve to 17-14 on the road—matching last season's entire away win total.

Yankees 4, Athletics 2

In Oakland, California, A.J. Burnett settled down conceding after an early homer and Nick Swisher hit a home run against his former team to help the New York Yankees beat the Oakland Athletics.

Derek Jeter got his 2,984th hit and Alex Rodriguez drove in a run for the Yankees, who have their longest winning streak against the A's since winning 14 straight from 1956-57.

Indians 13, Blue Jays 9

In Toronto, Matt LaPorta hit a three-run homer as Cleveland built a big lead from the start, helping Josh Tomlin beat Toronto.

Down 12-0, Toronto became the first major league team in 30 years to hit three straight triples. Eric Thames, Rajai Davis and Jayson Nix accomplished the

amid bribery allegations.

The election capped a period of several months in which FIFA has been buffeted by a swirl of corruption allegations, bid scandals, internal infighting and match-fixing cases that have scarred the credibility of the organization and the world's most popular sport.

The votes in December to award the 2018 World Cup to Russia and the 2022 World Cup feat in the fifth inning-Montreal was the last club to do it, with Mike Gates, Tim Raines and Tim Wallach against San Diego on May 6, 1981.

White Sox 7, Red Sox 4

In Boston, Paul Konerko hit a goahead single in the seventh inning and a two-run homer in the ninth to lead Chicago in a sweep of the three-game series against Boston.

Boston, which had two hits over the last seven innings, lost a fourth straight for the first time since a six-game, season-opening slide.

Rangers 3, Rays O

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Colby Lewis scattered four hits over eight innings and Elvis Andrus had two RBIs as Texas blanked Tampa Bay.

Lewis (5-5) struck out eight and walked two. Neftali Feliz allowed a leadoff single in the ninth before wrapping up his 11th save and completing the shutout.

Orioles 2, Mariners 1

In Seattle, Adam Jones had three hits against his former team, including the go-ahead

to Oatar sparked accusations in the British Parliament of bribes and other ethical misconduct among FIFA officials. FIFA said this week there was no evidence to back up those claims.

Then, last weekend bin Hammam and FIFA vice president Jack Warner—two of the highest-ranking and most powerful men in the global game—were suspended pending a full inquiry into allegations of vote-buyhomer into the upper deck in the eighth inning, to lead Baltimore over Seattle.

Jones turned on a fastball from Jamey Wright (1-2) and homered into the second level seating in left field to give Baltimore the lead.

Royals 2, Angels 0

In Kansas City, Missouri, Billy Butler hit a game-winning, two-run homer in the ninth inning as Kansas City shut out Los Angeles.

Jeff Francoeur singled with one out before Butler connected off Scott Downs (3-2). The ball hit behind the outfield padding in left-center field and bounced back into play, and the umpires initially ruled it a double before video showed it to be a home run.

Tigers 4, Twins 2

In Detroit, Miguel Cabrera hit a three-run homer in the third inning and Rick Porcello pitched into the seventh as Detroit beat Minnesota.

The Tigers swept the threegame series and have won four straight, while the Twins have lost 10 of 12, falling to 17-37 for the worst record in baseball.

ing in the Qatari's bid to unseat Blatter. Cash bribes of \$40,000 were allegedly paid to individual Caribbean football leaders to vote for bin Hammam.

Warner and bin Hammam denied wrongdoing and claimed the allegations—submitted to FIFA by American executive committee member Chuck Blazer—were part of a plot by Blatter to wreck the Qatari's election bid.

World soccer re-elects its leader amid scandals



Z U R I C H has headed the sport virtually un-(AP)—Stung allegations of mismanagement and cor-

ruption, Sepp Blatter held onto his spot as the leader of world soccer Wednesday, winning a one-man election derided as a "coronation."

The 75-year-old Swiss who

challenged for 13 years struck a rare note of humility in a speech

short on specifics that promised to reform an ethics committee and provide more transparency

in decision-making. "We have been hit and I personally have been slapped," Blatter told delegates to the sport's congress. "I don't want that ever again."

Blatter won a fourth four-year term as head of FIFA, soccer's governing body, by receiving 186 out of 203 votes in an election during the congress in which his was the only name on the ballot. His sole challenger, Qatari executive committee member Mohamed bin Hammam, withdrew from the race last weekend













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Mobil tops Ferrera Builders, 79-72

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND Walter sutherland@saipantribune.com



Defending champion Mobil bested last year's runnerup Ferrera

Builders, 79-72, in a rematch of last season's QQ Car Rental Basketball Cup finals in the late match Wednesday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Mobil improved its record to 4-2 and is now tied with its victims in the standings.

In the first game Blue Haus fended off a late rally by Rollers Happiness, 75-73, to improve its winning streak to five games. Happiness is still in search of its first win in five tries.

It was a tight first half as 13 lead in the first quarter. Ferrera Builders managed a slim 17-16 edge in the opening 10 minutes.

Marvin Rabauliman scattered seven points in the second to help Mobil turn the tables on Ferrera Builders, 37-36, at the half.

Mobil then trudged ahead, 60-51, after three quarters with Rabuliman adding another 11 points in the charge.

Mobil milked the clock in the final period and converted 10 free throws to secure the win.

Rabauliman finished with a game-high 23 points, while Kae Bernardo turned in 22 on the short end.

In the curtain raiser, Blue Haus jumped out to an early 20-

Happiness hung around in the second period, but still trailed Blue Haus, 37-32, at the half. Five Blue Haus players chipped in on the offensive end.

Blue Haus pressed on and shot ahead, 60-48, with a quarter to go with Jun Tabora firing six markers.

Blue Haus let its guard down at crunch time as Happiness nailed a pair of clutch 3-pointers to go with nine points from Patrick Torres that put Happiness right back in the game in the final minute.

However, Blue Haus held it together in the end and made it to the final buzzer.

In its time of need, Happiness missed top scorer Bran-

don Aulerio who fouled out in the last quarter. On the other hand, Blue Haus played the game without key players Dave Sablan, Bernard Aquino, and Kelvin Fitial.

Tabora led Blue Haus with 15 points, while Aulerio tallied 20 in the loss.

First Game

Blue Haus 75 - Tabora 15, Mateo 14, Sacramento 11, Fernandez 9, Talania 9, Santos 7, De Vero 5, Tenorio 3, Diaz.

Rollers Happiness 73 -Aulerio 20, Torres 16, Babauta 9, Lizama 8, Namelo 7, Reyes 6, Brennan 3, Cabrera 2, DL-Guerrero 1.

Scoring by quarters: 20-13, 37-32, 60-48, 75-73.

go a series of surgeries this year.

Second Game

Mobil 79 – Rabauliman 23, Estolas 16, Maratita 12, Gamboa 11, Ruluked 11, Sharry 6. Ferrera Builders 72 - Ber-

nardo 22, Demapan 16, Abuel 12, David 10, Miranda 5, Abuy 3, Mungcal 3.

Scoring by quarters: 17-18, 37-36, 61-50, 79-72.



Mobil's Marvin Rabauliman finds himself surrounded by Ferrera Builders players in last Wednesday's QQ Car Rental Basketball Cup matchup at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Softball fundraiser on June 17



Softball fans and players are encouraged to participate in a fundraising softball tournament for Jesus C.

Attao from June 17 to 19 at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Entrance fee is only \$125 per team and the first 15 squads to register will be allowed to compete in the three-day tournament.

All the proceeds from the fundraiser will be used to help defray the cost of Attao's medical expenses. Attao will under-

Interested teams are requested to attend a meeting on June 8 at 6pm at the Capital Hill Ballfield. To register or for more infor-

mation, Jojo Attao at 285-7483 or B.J. Attao at 285-2826. (PR)

RGA June qualifier this Sunday



Golfers Association will have its June Ace qualify-

The Refaluwasch ing tournament this Sunday at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

Check-in time is at 11am, while tee off is at 12pm.

Before the Sunday qualifier, RGA is encouraging its members to join the HANMI Golf Classic that will take place tomorrow at Coral Ocean Point.

The club also announces

that it is still open for mem-Wabol at 288-1129. (PR)

bership at \$25 annually. For more information about RGA tournaments, contact Tars Olopai at 483-5508, Tony Rogolifoi at 288-3515, and Jess

AKIMARU

From Page 32

GUAM

From Page 32

Perez (1:21.68) and Santiago (1:23.29) and Tanner Poppe (1:24.13), and Tsunami Guam's David Gugin (1:43.11).

In the 50m breaststroke and 100m backstroke swims, Akimaru equaled his personal best times, submitting 41.63 seconds and 1:28.27, respectively. The SSC bet's other first place finishes came from the 50m backstroke (40.36 seconds), 50m butterfly (35.54 seconds), 100m breaststroke (1:33.64), and the

(1:00.39), Kyle Lim (1:03.46),

Won Woo Choi (1:12.26), and

N-Nes Siech (1:41.71). The

Guam runner's two other vic-

tories came from the 800m run

(2:44.45) and 400m hurdles

Blaz raced in the 400m run

and submitted 1:02.81 to defeat

teammate Unpingco (1:06.26),

Cultura Athletics' Reylynn

Community School's Lyndin

(1:09.89), Saipan

50m freestyle (32.39 seconds).

Besides Akimaru, five other swimmers—Lennosuke Suzuki, Taiga Sato, Victoria Chentsova, and siblings Andrew and Grace Kimball—joined the two-day tournament.

Suzuki placed third in the U8 age group after collecting 102 points. It was his first off-island meet and he competed in seven events: 50m freestyle (41.10 seconds), 100m freestyle (1:32.97), 200m freestyle (3:08.74), 50m backstroke (51.36 seconds), 50m breaststroke (56.23 seconds), 50m butterfly (54.41 seconds), and 200m individual

Johnson (1:13.89), Whispering

Palms' Phalai Frink (1:16.80),

and Cultura Athletics' Joshalyn

Blaz gave Guam Central its

lone victory in field events when

she recorded 9.85m in the triple

jump and prevailed over five oth-

relay races. In the 4x100m relay,

Blaz teamed up with Unpingco

and Daughtry and group topped

the event with a time of 52.98

seconds. In the 800m medley re-

lay, Blaz, Unpingco, and sisters

Alexandria and Sierra Daughtry

had the fastest time at 1:49.15.

er athletes. She also joined two 11:27.38 to outrun teammate

Flores (1:23.17).

medley (3:47.35).

Sato also debuted in the Guam tournament and joined the U8 division's 50m freestyle (49.77 seconds), 100m freestyle (1:42.24), 50m backstroke (59.47 seconds), and 50m breaststroke (1:02.72).

Chentsova finished fourth in the 13 to 14 age group after swimming in the 100m freestyle (1:09.65, second place), 200m freestyle (2:29.86, first), 400m freestyle (5:16.62, second), 50m freestyle (32.09 seconds, second) and 800m freestyle (11:05.08, first).

Andrew topped the 800m

Abalos' twin wins were in

the longest races of the day.

In the 3,000m steeplechase,

he clocked in at 11:37.80 to

down Cultura Athletics' Mi-

chael Mancao (11:45.25) and

Eddy Manalili (13:38.27). In

the 3,000m run, Abalos logged

Unpingco won in middle dis-

tance race—the 800m (2:44.45)

and 1,500m (6:02.91) runs,

while Cobb ruled the sprint

events—100m (12.60 seconds)

After losing in the 3,000m

and 200m (26.75 seconds).

Jeremy Cruz (11:51.70).

(11:04.25)and 1,500m (22:31.17) freestyle swims in the boys 13 to 14 age group and was ranked fourth in the 50m, 100m 200m, and 400m freestyle races. His sister, Grace, joined the 100m freestyle (1:27.27, third), 50m butterfly (35.91 seconds, third) 100m breaststroke (1:40.68, fourth), 100m freestyle (1:09.94, fifth), and 50m freestyle (32.27 seconds, fourth)

Meanwhile, SSC would like to thank Fiesta Resort & Spa Guam and Tan Holdings for providing accommodations to its swimmers during the offisland tournament.

run, Cruz redeemed himself in

and winning over Abalos (4:51.72), Manalili (5:25.97), Dixon Kwon (5:33.88), and Cultura Athletics' Brandon Wanket (7:12.58). Fejeran also recovered from a

loss in the 800m run with a victory in the 3,000m (12:48.60) race.

the 1,500 run, posting 4:43.94

while Sierra Daughtry topped the 400m hurdles (1:11.45). Meanwhile, the complete

results of the Friday and Saturday competitions will be published in Saipan Tribune's Saturday's edition.

COMMONWEALTH

From Page 32

Sapong

that will be played in Lautoka, Fiji in August.

Winners will form the North Pacific Team, which will defend its POJC title against the West and East squads.

Last year, the North bets stunned the favored West players, winning the championship for the first time in 16 years. The North Pacific Team sent 15 players in the POJC and 10 of them came from the CNMI. They were Thea Minor, Rafael and Angelo Jones, Miller, Lee, Lopez, Johnson, Cajigan, Dela Cruz, and Rastguiy.

"This year, we are allowed to fill 11 slots on the North Team. I believe we can get 10 slots and if we sweep the 11, that will be great," added Race, who led the CNMI's domination of the NPO for the past several years.

In last year's NPQ, the CNMI topped three events with Thea

Minor ruling the girls U18 singles, Miller prevailing in the boys U14, and Rastguiy reigning in the girls U12. Minor beat FSM's Alyssa Hawkins in the finals, 6-0, 6-2; Miller swept teammate Lee, 6-0, 6-3; and Rastguiy pulled off a 2-6, 7-6. 6-3 upset over No. 1 seed Ayana Rengiil of Palau.

ANGELS

From Page 32

RBI single by Pete Tomokane and an error; D-9ers went 1-2-3 in the bottom frame.

Then the score shifted to 5-2 as both teams traded a run in the fourth. Angles' Iguel smashed an RBI

would get it back off an error. Angles then went ahead, 7-2, in the fifth off a sacrifice fly by Joab

triple in the top half, but D-9ers

and an RBI single by Fred Kaipat. D-9ers forced the Angels to 1-2-3 in the top of the sixth, but left the bases loaded in the bot-

tom frame. Angels left two runners in scoring position to start the seventh and D-9ers rallied back with a four-run string in the bottom frame off three hits, two walks, and a pair of errors.

The first two runs came home

off errors before two D-9ers players ripped RBI singles.

Angels' Dave Camacho came to the mound in relief for Dung Tenorio to close the last out of the inning.

The uprising did not faze the Angels as they answered with two runs in the eighth to go ahead, 9-6, off an error and a sacrifice fly by Tomokane; Angels also stuffed D-9ers 1-2-3 in the bottom half.

Angels went three up and three down in the ninth, but held D-9ers to just a run in their final stand.

Winning pitcher Dung Tenorio gave up one earned run in seven and two-thirds innings off seven hits, four walks, and a bean ball with three strikeouts.

Angels' Tomokane batted 2-for-3 with two RBIs, two runs, a stolen base, and a base on balls. Iguel swung 3-for-5 with an RBI, three stolen bases, and two runs.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE **East Division**

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	31	23	.574	_
Boston	30	26	.536	2
Tampa Bay	29	26	.527	2 1/2
Toronto	28	28	.500	4
Baltimore	25	29	.463	6

Central Division

Cleveland	33	20	.623	_
Detroit	29	26	.527	5
Chicago	27	31	.466	8 1/2
Kansas City	25	30	.455	9
Minnesota	17	37	.315	16 1/2

West Division

Texas	30	26	.536	_
Seattle	28	27	.509	1 1/2
Los Angeles	29	29	.500	2
Oakland	27	30	.474	3 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE East Division

Philade	elphia	34	22	.607	_						
Florida	ı	31	23	.574	2						
Atlanta		31	26	.544	3 1/2						
New Y	ork	25	30	.455	8 1/2						
Washir	ngton	24	31	.436	9 1/2						

30 26 .536 2 1/2 Cincinnati 29 28 .509 4 26 28 .481 5 1/2 Pittsburgh .426 8 1/2 Houston 22 34 .393 10 1/2

33 24 .579

West Division

Central Division

St. Louis

Arizona 31 25 .554 -San Francisco 30 25 .545 1/2 Colorado Los Angeles 26 31 .456 5 1/2 San Diego 24 32 .429

Yesterday's Games

Washington 2, Philadelphia 1 Houston 3, Chicago Cubs 1 Cincinnati 4, Milwaukee 3 Pittsburgh 9, N.Y. Mets 3 Atlanta 4, San Diego 3 Arizona 6, Florida 5 San Francisco 7, St. Louis 5, 11 innings Colorado 3, L.A. Dodgers 0 Texas 3, Tampa Bay 0 Chicago White Sox 7, Boston 4 N.Y. Yankees 4, Oakland 2 Baltimore 2, Seattle 1 Kansas City 2, L.A. Angels 0 Cleveland 13, Toronto 9

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Over 200 kids join spring football festival



Shirley's and Tan Holdings players battle for the ball during their game in the NMIFA youth spring football festival last Saturday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



More than 200 youth strikers withstood the scorching heat

last Saturday to participate in the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association-organized spring football festival at the southern side of the island.

The festival, which capped the three-month long 2011 NMIFA Youth Spring League, took place at the Koblerville Elementary School and Saipan Southern High School fields and drew U6, U8, U10, and U12 players from Matansa Football Club, Paire Football Club, MP United Football Club, Tan Holdings Football Club, Shirley's Football Club, and Independents Football Club.

Games in the U12 division were played at Southern in an eight-a-side, 10 two-minute halves format. The three other age groups had their matches at Koblerville with teams having six players each. Games in the U6, U8, and U10 were also played in 10 two-minute halves format. Koblerville had two pitches for the games and participating teams played from 8am to 3pm. Over at Southern, U12 teams also had two venues and played from 12nn to 4pm.

Only the U6, U8, U10, and U12 played in the festival, as the U15 and U18 age groups had their separate competitive leagues.

"Overall, the spring youth league was great, as we saw a lot of kids play football. We have about 46 teams from U6 to U18. I would like to thank NMIFA for their support to the youth committee season after season. Also, thanks to all the parents who bring their children to practices and to every Saturday games. Without all of the support from parents and NMIFA, the league will not be successful," youth committee's Lydia

Sablan, Celis take MVP awards in Belau league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com REPORTER



TKK 2 swept the MVP awards in the 2011 Belau Amateur Softball Association Slow-Pitch League, as pitcher Mike

Sablan and power-hitter Toi Celis were named most valuable players in the regular season and finals, respectively.

Sablan was chosen for the coveted regular season MVP plum for leading TKK 2 to a pennant win in the roundrobin tournament and helping the team advanced to the championship. TKK 2 finished the regular season with a 10-1 record, tying the Tigers. Sablan and company went on to beat the Tigers in the tiebreak game for the pennant and also took the championship after sweeping the best-of-three finals last Sunday at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield.

Celis had a breakout game in the championship round, going 7-for-8 at bat and

Regular season MVP Mike Sablan of TKK 2 gets ready to deliver a pitch to Tigers batter Jesus Iguel during the bottom of the fourth inning of Game 2 of their best-of-three title series in the Belau softball league last Sunday at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



scoring six home runs and 13 RBIs. He had four homers in Game 1 to lead TKK 1 to a come-from-behind 12-10 win. In Game 2, he hit back-to-back homers in the third and fourth inning and went on to post seven RBIs in TKK 2's 20-3 rout of the Tigers. The two MVPs were awarded trophies during a brief ceremony after the championship game.

Sablan collected two more awards, as he led the league in strikeouts with 17 and also had the best ERA at 3.4. His teammate, Jerry Ayuyu, took home the batting champion award after averaging .750 off his 18-for-24 performance at the plate. Ayuyu made the game-winning hit for TKK 2 during their battle for the pennant against the Tigers, as he blasted a two-run homer to lift his team to a close 11-10 victory.

Another TKK 2 slugger—Roy Celis-was recognized last weekend for scoring the most doubles in the regular season with six. Completing the list of awardees were the Tigers' Jesus Iguel, Red Torch's Payton Sakuma, Glovd Martin, and Ray Sablan. Iguel topped the triples category with three, Sakuma was named home run king with his eight round-trippers, and the Tigers' Martin and TKK 2's Ray Sablan were named coach and manager of the year, respectively.

"The festival turnout was good and kids have fun with all the age group games. Thanks to Koblerville and Southern for their general support and for allowing us to use their school fields for the festival. This season, the festival was centralized in one area so

parents can watch all their kids game," she added.

Tan said CNMI's youth strikers will now take a break for three months before returning to the field for the fall season, that will run from Sept. 24 to

MTBC holds race Sunday



Participants in the MTBC-organized race head out of the Mt. Tapochao parking lot for a fundraising race last April. This Sunday, MTBC will host the Lung Buster Bike Race.

The Mt. Tapochau Bike Club will be holding the Lung Buster Bike Race this Sunday.

The race will have two courses, the sport and championship. Both courses will start at the Commonwealth Health Center upper parking lot at Navy Hill and only mountain bikes are allowed.

For the sport course, riders will head out to Galaide Road, then proceed to Mt. Tapochao Road, turn right, continue to Lamar trail, connect to Galaide Road, and turn left downhill to finish line at the bottom of Mt. Tapochau Road.

For the championship course, riders will not turn right at Lamar Trail, but will continue to climb up to Mt. Tapochao Road, proceed up to Bitch (XTERRA full course), connect to Sound of Music trail, Lamar trail, and Galaide Road, and turn left turn downhill for the finish line.

Entrance fee is only \$20 and cash prizes will be awarded to the Top 3 finishers in the men's and women's divisions. A free limited MTBC shirt will be given to participants, while raffle drawing will also take place after the race with each raffle ticket costing \$1. The race will start at 7am, while registration will begin at 6am.

For more information, email club president Vince Seman at viseman@ gmail.com or call Jay Santos at 285-5466. **(PR)**

National volleyball team training continues

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND REPORTER



The CNMI National Beach Volleyball Team's training sessions continue as members prepare to compete in the 2011 Pacific Games set for Septem-

ber in Noumea, New Caledonia.

In addition, the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association is inviting everyone interested in improving their volleyball skills and/or interested in strength training to join free programs open to players 10 years or older.

Participants will get to practice and train alongside CNMI national players, which consists of Amanda Clarkson, Melody Matson, Toni Yamada, and Amber Roberts for the women and Tyce Mister, Chris Nelson, Andy Nutting, and Clay McCullough-Stearns for the men.

This week's training schedule includes volleyball drills on Thursday from 5pm to 6:30pm on the Fiesta Resort & Spa sand courts, followed by a Friday morning weight training session from 5:45am to 7am at the Marianas High School Gymnasium with another Saturday morning drills session at Fiesta Resort from 8am to 10am.

Starting next week, members will undergo weekly weight training on Monday and Thursday mornings (5:45am-7am) at MHS with drill sessions at Fiesta Resort on Tuesday and Thursday evenings (5pm-6:30pm) and Saturday mornings (8am-10am).

This will be the team's training routine until further notice.

Weight training sessions are open to players 14 years and older.

The NMIVA is the National Federation for the CNMI for beach and indoor volleyball, which maintains accredited memberships with FIBA, Northern Mariana Amateur Sports Association, the Asian Volleyball Confederation and Oceania Zonal Volleyball Association.

NMIVA is also locally affiliated with Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization, the Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association and the Guam Volleyball Association.

NMIVA encourages all volleyball enthusiasts to become a member. Yearly memberships cost \$20 and members will receive email updates and discounts on all NMIVA-sanctioned events throughout the year.

For more information, email nmivolleyball@gmail.com or visit www.nmivolleyball.org.







Akimaru sweeps Guam swim races

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com

aipan Swim Club's Kento Akimaru dominated the 9 to 10 age group competition in the 2011 Guam Championships, winning all the seven races he participated in at the Hagatna Pool last weekend.



"Kento Akimaru had the most noteworthy performance among SSC swimmers. Kento won each of his events, giving him 140 points, the highest possible to win the 9 to

10 boys age group high point award," SSC's Lisa Kimball said in an email to Saipan Tribune.

Among the seven races he completed, the 10-year-old Akimaru had his best swim in the 100m freestyle event. He clocked in at 1:10.63, eclipsing his personal best time of 1:10. 79 and beating Tsunami Saipan's Hiroto Yanai (1:16.27), MSC's Daraven

See AKIMARU on Page 30

► Saipan Swim Club swimmers show the trophies and ribbons they won in last weekend's 2011 Guam Championships. сонтявитер рното

Guam Central tops Marianas championships

Commonwealth to send 23 players to NPQ

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com

A strong 23-player CNMI Junior Tennis Team will be competing in the 2011 ITF-North Pacific Qualifying Event in Guam this month.

The list includes U18's Rafael Jones, Thea and Theecel Minor, U15's Jake Lee, Christian Miller, Amami Sakano, Angelo Jones, Chris Cajigan, Seiya Eda, Mikayla Lopez, Alina Ishikawa, Melody Johnson, and Jazmin Rayphand, and U12's Carl Dela Cruz, Moris Villanueva, Colin Ramsey, Michael Ren, Luther Lizama, Michael Jones,

Negahr Rastguiy, Tammy Ackerman, Emily Jones, and Carol Lee.

Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia in the qualifier that will run from June 13 to 17. "We have a great team this year. They are very

The CNMI junior netters will be battling the bets of Guam,

prepared for the NPQ, as they are on their peak form right now," CNMI coach Jeff Race.

The Top 2 finishers in the U18 age group and Top 4 in the U15 and U12 will gain slots to the 2011 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships and the Oceania Closed Junior Championships See COMMONWEALTH on Page 30







Dela Cruz

Angels beat D-9ers, advance to SML finals



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND St. Michael's Angels' Jesus Iguel, seen here in a file photo, batted 3-for-5 with an RBI, three stolen bases, and two runs in last Wednesday's SML playoff game against Sen. Crisotimo D-9ers at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND onship game dates are still being

The St. Michael's Angels advanced to the Saipan Major League championship after defeating the Sen. Crisostimo D-9ers, 9-7, in Game 2 of their best-of-three semifinal series Wednesday night

at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Angles will now wait and see who they will face between the Shell Fielders and the Tan Holdings Brewers, who played Game 2 of their best-ofthree series last night.

The Brewers won the first game, 8-7, in an 11-inning nailbiter back on Tuesday. Champidetermined and will be released once confirmed.

The Angels and D-9ers mustered a run apiece in the opening frame. Angels' Jesus Iguel reached on a lead off single, stole two bases, and scored off

a wild pitch, while D-9ers' Jonathan Tenorio drove in Chris Camacho with a base hit in the bottom frame.

Angels' Pat Alepuyo then scored Thomas Joab with a sacrifice fly in the second; D-9ers left a man at third in the bottom frame.

Angels pressed on and pulled ahead, 4-1, in the third off an See ANGELS on Page 30



ROSELYN B. MONROYO Guam Central Athletic Club's Carlvin Macaraeg, right, and Cultura Athletics' Beo Ngirchongor, left, are engaged in a neck-and-neck race in the 200m run during last Saturday's 2011 Marianas National Championships at the Oleai Sports Complex.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com

Guam Central Athletics Club reigned supreme in the 2011 Marianas National Championships, prevailing in 15 of the 30 events held over the weekend at the Oleai

Sports Complex. The visitors banked on running events to top the two-day competition, winning 14 races

and one field contest. The competition was organized by Northern Marianas Athletics.

Jeofry Limtiaco won three

individual events for GCAS, Naomi Blaz, Jorgene Abalos, Rheada Unpingco, and Pollara Cobb had two each. Also delivering victories for the Jay Antonio-coached squad were Michael Herreros, Si-

erra Daughtry, and Jeshalvn Fejeran. Limtiaco prevailed

in the 400m run with his time of 54.04 seconds, beating Cultura Athletics' Douglas

Dillay (57.28 seconds), Beo Ngirchongor (57.63 seconds), teammate Jeremy Cruz

See GUAM on Page 30